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The Commonwealth's BayStateWorks Program Celebrates its Successes

On Wednesday, June 21st at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston, the state-funded BayStateWorks Program celebrates the successful completion of this latest round of funding.

BayStateWorks, funded through the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development and administered by the quasi-public Commonwealth Corporation, is an education and training initiatives that improves the economic well-being of Massachusetts employers while also improving the employment and wages of workers.

Eleven Workforce Investment Boards and nine Community-Based Organizations received grants to lead partnerships that designed and delivered projects reflecting the needs of participating employers to increase the skills, education, and ability of workers to contribute to the economic vitality of their communities.

Since the program began in 2004, employers and other partners have contributed \$4,500,313 in co-investment to the projects and about 3,312 individuals have been enrolled and received career coaching, employment, basic skills remediation and training services.

Wednesday's event enabled participants to learn how Massachusetts employers have addressed their workforce needs and how thousands of workers have climbed the career ladder to increased skills and better wages.

Featured speakers included Jane C. Edmonds, Director of Workforce Development, Jack Mills, Director of the National Network of Sector Initiatives, Sylvia Beville, Executive Director of the Metro South/West Workforce Investment Board, Greig Elliot, Plant Manager of Sealer Air Corporation, and others.

Jonathan Raymond, President of Commonwealth Corporation, spoke about the importance of partnerships to the success of BayStateWorks, "The BayStateWorks program model works because it brings the right people together to work collaboratively, and is driven by the employers and local organizations that best understand their workforce challenges."

Commonwealth Corporation is a quasi-public organization that seeks to increase the prosperity of workers in Massachusetts, while making businesses more competitive through education and workforce development. Commonwealth Corporation receives financial support from the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development.

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