



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

JULY 2003

## MassFutures Offers Opportunities for Teachers and Local Businesses

**C**ommonwealth Corporation has begun recruitment for MassFutures, a program that allows corporations to employ math, science and technology educators via summer "externships." Math, science and technology teachers who participate in MassFutures next summer will receive a \$4,000 stipend from CommCorp's Center for Youth Development and Education (CYDE).

A total of \$48,000 is available through the program for 12 stipends. Twelve first- and second-year teachers will be

available to work in a variety of industries, among them health care, insurance, finance, biotechnology, telecommunications, and hardware and software.

Under MassFutures' current program, two teachers from urban locations are assigned to work for an appropriate employer on a single externship. One of the two teachers is always available over the course of a six-week program, while the other teaches summer school.

(continued on page 2)

### Nursing Faculty Shortage Conference



*Jane Edmonds (right), Director of DLWD, talks with Eleni Papadakis (center), Vice-President for CommCorp's Center for the Adult Workforce and Lori Culwell (left) from Johnson and Johnson at the June 17th Nursing Faculty Shortage Conference. The conference, held at the UMass Medical Center in Shrewsbury, brought together healthcare employers, policymakers, nursing educators, workforce development agencies and others, to address the critical shortage of nursing faculty in Massachusetts. Lori Culwell is a strategist for Johnson & Johnson's Campaign for Nursing's Future, a nationwide effort by the company to address the shortage in nursing faculty.*

## The Boston Foundation Kicks Off New Initiative

The Boston Foundation, in partnership with numerous local and national foundations, the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, officially kicked off the **Boston Workforce Development Initiative** (BWDI), with the May 20th release of two Requests for Proposals. The initiative is an innovative response to the increasingly wide skill gap that has left many workers in poverty while employers are unable to meet their needs for a skilled workforce.

The effort builds on other local and national career pathway models, such as the Annie E. Casey Jobs Initiative, Commonwealth Corporation's Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI), and the Commonwealth's Building Essential Skills Through Training (BEST) Initiative. All these initiatives support multi-sector partnerships to create learning pathways for greater career prosperity for Massachusetts' residents.

CommCorp, together with Jobs for the Future, the Boston Private Industry Council, and Management Consulting Services, worked with the Boston Funders Group to prepare the roll-out of the initiative, which focuses on three key systems change strategies:

- strengthening capacity,
- workforce partnerships, and
- public policy advocacy.

CommCorp contributed lessons learned from career ladder initiatives and helped develop the request for evaluation services. Going forward, CommCorp hopes to serve as a bridge between BWDI and the publicly-funded career ladder programs it operates, so that all workforce development initiatives—whether publicly or privately funded—will be better able to serve both businesses and workers, through the systems reform and improvement to be realized through this initiative.

## CommCorp Announces New Focus

Governor Romney's plan to reorganize and streamline state government gives CommCorp a new focus and new ways and opportunity for contributing to workforce development in the Commonwealth. CommCorp's work is in three key areas:

- Center for the Adult Workforce innovates workforce development best practices through research, industry partnerships and program demonstrations.
- Center for Youth Development and Education expands learning and career development opportunities for youth.
- Center for Research and Evaluation determines the effectiveness of workforce development programs and disseminating results for continuous improvement.

Though many of our functions may have changed, our mission—**Empowering People and Businesses to Learn, Earn, and Succeed**—remains unchanged and is still the driving force behind all that we do.

---

### MassFutures

(continued from page 1)

Teachers from communities associated with the Massachusetts Initiative for New Teacher's (MINT) will participate in MassFutures. MINT is a Department of Education program that is active in Boston, Cambridge, Worcester, Lowell, Springfield, Brockton, Fall River and New Bedford.

Commonwealth Corporation created MassFutures to increase the number of quality math, science and technology teachers in Massachusetts, to improve teachers' effectiveness in the classroom, and to increase awareness and understanding of their students' career needs. Companies that are interested in the program should contact Fred Steenkamp at Commonwealth Corporation.

---

*Commonwealth Corporation is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to persons with disabilities. (617) 727-8158; TDD/TTY (800) 439-2370; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129*

*Mitt Romney, Governor; Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor; Jane C. Edmonds, Director, Mass. DLWD; Jonathan Raymond, President, CommCorp*