



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

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\$4.1 Million in BayStateWorks Grants Announced

Massachusetts' Director of Workforce Development Jane C. Edmonds and Commonwealth Corporation President Jonathan Raymond announced 11 grant awards totaling \$4.1 million. The announcement was made during a visit to Caritas Norwood Hospital on November 30.

Caritas Norwood is the site of one of the employer partners from the HealthcareWorks Projects, one of the eleven projects receiving funding, which is led by the Metro South/West Regional Employment Board. In partnership with 13 hospitals, a medical group practice, three nursing homes, five community colleges, three union organizations, three community-based organizations and four one-stop career centers, this project will address regional health care staffing shortages by providing basic skills training, and connecting workers with community colleges to further their skills training and education. Delia O'Connor, President of Caritas Norwood Hospital, welcomed the other grant recipients and spoke about the hospital's commitment to the HealthcareWorks Program.

State funding from the newly renamed BayStateWorks program (formerly known as BEST) will help businesses or industries address workforce development needs by



Jane C. Edmonds, Director of the Department of Workforce Development, and Delia O'Connor, President of Caritas Norwood Hospital, at the BayStateWorks grant announcement.

forming employer-driven partnerships in that will increase the number of nurses, direct care workers, manufacturing workers and more. The awards in this round of funding range from \$201,095 to \$967,749 and involve 14 workforce investment boards.

"This program has a proven track record of helping businesses increase their competitiveness by building workers' skills through education and training," said

(continued on page 2)

Grant Announcement

(continued from page 1)

Edmonds. “To date, since the program began, 3,226 incumbent and unemployed workers have received a solid foundation of skills with which to achieve career mobility.”

Sylvia Beville, Executive Director of the Metro South/West Regional Employment Board said, “The nursing and allied health shortages have really constrained the growth of our community hospitals. This grant will

enable us to bring people without access to careers in healthcare into the field by providing the basic skills to go on to college and succeed as imaging technicians and nurses.”

Raymond said that BayStateWorks funding is not only helping local employers increase their employee skills and earning potential, but also working to reduce critical job vacancies in key sectors.

BayStateWorks Grant Recipients

Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board – Education Services and Manufacturing – \$276,600

North Shore Workforce Investment Board – Jobs in Aerospace – \$267,389

Boston Private Industry Council – Health Care, Post Secondary – \$274,274

Boston Private Industry Council – Human Services, Direct Care – \$371,968

Metro South/West Regional Employment Board in collaboration with the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board and the North Shore Workforce Investment Board – Healthcare Works – \$967,749

Bristol County Workforce Investment Board in collaboration with the New Bedford Workforce Investment Board – \$416,589

Regional Employment Board of Hampden County - Healthcare & Manufacturing – \$276,600

Berkshire County Regional Employment Board – Manufacturing & Information Technology – \$276,600

Cape Cod & Islands Workforce Investment Board – Healthcare Partnership – \$201,095

Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board – Manufacturing Partnership – \$271,189

Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board in collaboration with the South Coastal Workforce Investment Board – \$499,947

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