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# At Issue

## Many Training Options Are Available to NJ Manufacturers

If you are a manufacturer, there's a good chance you have an ongoing need to train your plant workers in new technologies, improved production processes, and even basic literacy. As a plant owner or manager, you might even want to brush up on your own technology and management skills.

As the newest member of NJBIA's Manufacturing Campaign team, it's my job to tell you how to get the help you need to train your workforce in New Jersey. Fortunately, there are many excellent resources in this state, not only for manufacturers, but for businesses of every kind. What follows is a summary, in question-and-answer format, of some of the best resources related to workforce training.

These and other resources can be found online at [www.njbia.org/manufacturing](http://www.njbia.org/manufacturing) in "Resources for NJ Manufacturers,"

**Q.** Where can I, as a small manufacturer, get training to better operate my business?

**A.** Plant owners and managers can get personal, hands-on training to improve their manufacturing operations by working with the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP), a not-for-profit organization. Successful trainings were held for free for NJBIA members in June, and you can contact NJMEP at 973-998-9801 or [www.njmep.org/index.htm](http://www.njmep.org/index.htm) to learn how to get involved in the future.

NJBIA has partnered with the NJ Small Business Development Centers (NJSBDC), which helps new companies get started and helps small businesses expand their operations. The NJSBDC, which has offices in every county of the State, provides free counseling to small-business owners on financing, marketing and managing their businesses. NJBIA members will be given high priority to use NJSBDC counseling programs and receive a 20-percent discount on a new series of workshops designed specifically to help established small businesses move to the next stage in their development. Call 800-432-1565 or visit [www.njbia.org/resources/sbdc.asp](http://www.njbia.org/resources/sbdc.asp) to learn more.

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) also has a great program called the Entrepreneurial Training Institute (ETI), which trains and guides existing and startup small-business owners in their operations. The ETI holds a variety of classes at night throughout the State. You can call 609-292-9279 to learn more.

**Q.** Where can I find help to improve the workplace skills of my employees?

**A.** The New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development is an excellent resource for any business looking to develop their workforce. Through the Consortium, New Jersey's 19 community colleges are ready to help you develop training to meet your workforce needs in convenient locations across the State.

Specifically, there are two valuable programs available to NJBIA members through our partnership with the Consortium. Thanks to a \$1.88 million grant from the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development (LWD), you can get basic-skills training for your employees at no charge. Classes will be offered for one year from July of 2007 through June of 2008 in one of four areas - English as a second language, computer applications, mathematics and communications. For customized training, the Consortium will write your grant application to the LWD to help finance the training. For information on both programs, you can contact the Consortium at 609-393-9000 or 609-393-9009, or you can visit [www.njbia.org/resources/training.asp](http://www.njbia.org/resources/training.asp).

You can also work directly with the LWD to access diverse resources from the training grants mentioned above to the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and One-Stop Centers that will help you recruit and train workers. For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/njbusiness/operate/workforce/training](http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/operate/workforce/training).

You can also partner with your local vocational-technical schools to train and recruit employees. You can call the NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools at 609-392-6222 or visit [www.njccvts.com](http://www.njccvts.com).