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President

# Report TO MEMBERS

## \$1.88 Million Training Program Is Newest Education Benefit

**N**JBIA is dedicated to helping our more than 23,000 members meet the challenge of doing business in New Jersey. We provide our members with many money-saving benefits and valuable resources, particularly in the area of workforce and professional training.

Among the training-related resources we make available to our members are annual seminars to help companies better manage their workforces or save money. For example, we recently held two seminars, *HR 101: A Primer for Managing Human Resources and Taking Charge of Your Workers' Comp Costs: Employer Strategies that Work*.

On October 30 at the Forsgate Country Club is a perennial favorite, *Employee Health Insurance: How to Get the Best Deal*, and on November 16 at the Sheraton in Eatontown we are holding *Protecting Your Business from Workplace Discrimination Liability*. If you are interested, please call Sherry Esteves at 609-393-7707, ext. 219, or send an e-mail to [sesteves@njbja.org](mailto:sesteves@njbja.org).

An exciting, new benefit to our members in the area of workforce training is The Basic-Skills Workforce Training Program, which started last month. It was formed through a partnership between the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA), the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development (the Consortium), and the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD).

Does your company have employees who need to enhance their skills in English as a second language, computers, mathematics, and written and verbal communications?

Thanks to an unprecedented \$1.88 million Department of Labor training grant, NJBIA members can now send their employees to local community colleges to enhance their basic skills in one or all of these four areas — and at no charge to their companies.

The only requirement of the new program, should your company choose to participate, is that you must keep your employees “on the clock,” i.e. pay them at their usual hourly rate, while they are undergoing training.

This program is being run by the Community College Consortium, which will organize classes for your employees at a location convenient to your business. If you are interested, call Bob Rosa, the Consortium’s Chief Operating Officer, at 609-393-9009 or send an e-mail to [rrosa@njworkforce.org](mailto:rrosa@njworkforce.org).

We have many other programs as well.

As part of our commitment to keep manufacturing strong in New Jersey, we have partnered with the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP) to offer our members free workshops in “lean manufacturing.” The most recent was held in June; nearly 40 of our manufacturing members got a hands-on look at how to make their production processes more efficient and profitable. If you are a manufacturer and would like to benefit from the services of the MEP, call (973) 642-7099.

For more information on other workforce training resources, visit our training resource page at [www.njbja.org/resources/training](http://www.njbja.org/resources/training).

Of course, there are other significant benefits to being an NJBIA member, not the least of which is the ability of your company and your employees to apply for property-casualty insurance coverage with NJM Insurance Co. The top-rated NJM offers superior service at very competitive rates and has paid dividends to policyholders in every year since 1918. Your employees can apply for personal auto and homeowners’ coverage, an additional benefit for them at no extra cost to your company.

We also have programs that allow you to save money and manage your costs in shipping, credit-card processing, energy and telecommunications. You can find more on these money-saving programs by visiting [www.njbja.org/resources](http://www.njbja.org/resources). As an NJBIA member, I hope you will take full advantage of these programs. 