



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

Richard Vespucci
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126

For Release: February 24, 2005

2005 Apprenticeship and Training Conference Set for March 3-4

Educators, employers, unions, community- and faith-based organizations, and government agencies will participate in the 2005 State Apprenticeship and Training Conference on March 3 and 4 at Bally's Atlantic City. The theme of this year's conference is *Apprenticeship Plus: Look At Us Now!*

The New Jersey Department of Education cosponsors the conference with the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. The annual conference is designed to give participants opportunities to learn about different and effective ways to use apprenticeship programs to develop careers for youth and adults in high-skill, high-wage occupations in New Jersey.

"Apprenticeship programs represent a time-honored and effective way for young people to gain life skills they can use on the job today, tomorrow, and in the years to come," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey.

"This conference has served in a productive role over the years by linking the apprenticeship community with best practices and cutting-edge information in their field," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "It serves as a source of reliable information and provides a way for educators, business and industry and other interested parties to network."

Apprenticeships are relationships between employers and employees in which the employee, or apprentice, learns a skilled occupation through on-the-job training during the day supplemented with related classroom instruction in the evening. Training periods vary from two to five years, depending on the specific trade and industry standards.

Workshop topics for this year's conference include:

- New apprenticeship programs
- Links among secondary schools, apprenticeship programs and college-level programs;
- Occupational safety and health initiatives; and
- Management initiatives to promote apprenticeship-related career pathways to middle and high school students.

Additional topics include the building and construction industry, women in the construction industry, and new apprenticeship programs for automotive technicians and early childcare development specialists.

Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Thomas D. Carver and New Jersey AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech will deliver the keynote addresses.

Information tables will highlight workplace safety and health programs and resources, vocational student organizations, veterans' affairs training resources, the New Jersey AFL-CIO, and the Association of New Jersey Apprenticeship Coordinators, among others.

For more information about the conference, call the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training at 732-750-9191. Electronic registration is available at:

http://www.mcvts.net/adult/Night_courses/appren.htm