

Pennsylvania Partners



Leading Change through
Innovation

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

**25th Annual Employment,
Training & Education Conference**

May 6-8, 2009

Hershey Lodge • Hershey, Pennsylvania

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Pennsylvania Department of Aging Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
Pennsylvania Department of Education Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Pennsylvania Association of Workforce Investment Boards United States Department of Labor

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Annual Employment, Training and Education Conference – a time to celebrate the success of one of the nation’s longest continuously running state workforce conferences and focus on innovating for the future. We are in the midst of challenging times full of change and opportunity. Pennsylvania will lead that change through innovation and create a wealth of new opportunities for growth and renewal.

Conference participants will be challenged to think beyond the present and look towards the future of workforce development in the commonwealth. The conference offers the opportunity to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences to inspire creativity, uncover new approaches and drive innovation.

Innovating for the Future

More than 50 knowledge sessions and clinics with speakers representing local, state and national agencies and the private sector will be offered at this year’s conference. Pennsylvania Partners will award Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for a number of knowledge sessions in accordance with the criteria and standards of the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

The conference will also offer leadership development and training sessions, networking opportunities, policy updates from Harrisburg and Washington, thoughtful and provocative plenary sessions, comments from state leaders and an exhibition hall featuring state-of-the-art products and services to enhance the implementation of programs.

Celebrating Success

Don’t miss this opportunity to see first-hand the true success of Pennsylvania’s workforce development system. Individuals who have excelled in WIA Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, programs for aging workers, educational and business partnerships, and in TANF employment programs will be honored with Governor’s Achievement Awards. Governor’s Workforce Development Awards will be presented to employers that have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania’s workforce development system.

25 Years of Excellence

In 1984, the conference became one of the first-ever gatherings of all the partnering agencies in Pennsylvania’s workforce development system designed to educate the workforce development community. The conference remains one of the largest workforce development conferences in the country attracting approximately 1,400 participants.

Pennsylvania Partners

Pennsylvania Partners is a statewide nonprofit association that represents the commonwealth’s local workforce development system, with membership from each of Pennsylvania’s 23 workforce investment areas. The association serves as the primary advocate and resource for workforce development professionals in Pennsylvania.

Gateway to Innovation

Visit the Gateway to Innovation, where you will see up close the dynamic products and services of exhibiting companies and organizations in all facets of workforce development. You will gain insight and get a hands-on understanding of the latest products, technologies and services, as well as meet leading workforce innovators and discuss what they can do for you and your organization.

The Gateway to Innovation will give you the opportunity to:

- Review new products and solutions
- Conduct product research
- Compare various providers
- Meet face-to-face with companies
- See all products and services in one location
- Test drive products for hands-on experience
- Address your specific issues
- Create lists of new suppliers
- Expand your knowledge from the experience of industry experts

To give you ample opportunity to take full advantage of the Gateway to Innovation, all breaks and receptions will be held inside the exhibition area.

Policy Exchange

The conference provides a unique opportunity for participants to hear directly from officials making policy at the local, state and national levels.

Plenary sessions and knowledge sessions will explore current workforce legislation, programs and appropriations. With a new president in the White House, insiders will provide their thoughts on the direction workforce policy will likely take and the outlook for federal appropriations. Will there be a brand new Workforce Investment Act? What would a newly designed system look like? Additional knowledge sessions will address the significant issues facing the workforce development system.

Governor Ed Rendell, state cabinet officials and other policy makers have been invited to address participants at the conference. A State Leaders Panel will feature state cabinet officials who will discuss Pennsylvania’s workforce development initiatives and progress from the perspective of their own departments.

Keynote Speaker

Denise Bissonnette



Denise Bissonnette is an internationally renowned writer, trainer and keynote speaker. She has inspired people and organizations throughout North America to look beyond traditional concepts of career development and to craft livelihoods rooted in the individual genius of each person.

After earning a Masters Degree at the University of San Francisco, Denise worked in English as a Second Language programs. Her early literacy work with

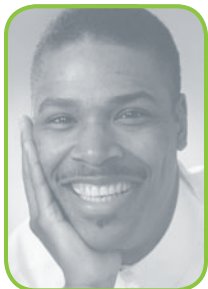
political refugees drew her to the difficulties they faced in trying to establish themselves in the American workplace. She then made a career change and became a job developer, working with employers to find jobs for people from groups not traditionally a part of the workforce. Her success as a job developer led to requests to deliver seminars to job developers and employment specialists throughout the employment and training field.

Denise has authored several publications on creative job development, state-of-the-art job search techniques, cultivation of the human spirit and how to shine on the job. Denise's job search curriculum, *Pathways*, became a valued resource for the placement services of many social service agencies and educational systems. Her book, *Beyond Traditional Job Development*, is regarded as the definitive text for job development professionals.

Ms. Bissonnette continues to work with companies to enhance their workforce diversity efforts and designs training programs and manuals to enable companies to effectively engage the talents of employees emerging from welfare-to-work initiatives. Denise will present the keynote address on Thursday, May 7, as well as two knowledge sessions during the conference.

Closing Plenary Session Speaker

Robert Pruitt



Robert Pruitt returns to the Annual Employment, Training and Education Conference as the featured presenter at the Closing Plenary Session after delivering highly successful keynote and workshop presentations at the 2008 conference. His workshops typically attract standing-room-only crowds.

As a highly sought motivational speaker, Robert coaches adults to step outside their comfort zones and to take ownership of the leadership power in their lives. He has

worked with youth and adults around the globe from a variety of backgrounds. He describes himself as a person who "instructs, trains and motivates others to discover, explore and experience personal power through self-actualization". He is committed to enabling individuals to take their lives to a higher level and enhance their capacity to better serve their communities.

Robert's workshops focus on the theme of leadership and are predicated on the principle of "active learning." His presentations are designed so that participants acquire knowledge and skills through active participation.

In addition to presenting the Closing Keynote on Friday, May 8, Robert will present a knowledge session during the conference.

Annual Conference At-A-Glance

(TENTATIVE SCHEDULE)

Wednesday, May 6

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Conference Registration

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Technical Workgroup Meetings and Pre-Conference Sessions

11:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Opening Session
Awards Luncheon – Governor's Achievement Awards to Program Participants

2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Gateway to Innovation in Exhibition Hall

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Networking Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Knowledge Sessions (Round 1)

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Reception in Exhibition Hall

Dinner on Your Own

Thursday, May 7

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Conference Registration

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Gateway to Innovation in Exhibition Hall

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Plenary Session

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Served Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Keynote Address – Denise Bissonnette

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
State Leaders Panel

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Knowledge Sessions (Round 2)

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Governor's Employer Awards Luncheon

2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Networking Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Knowledge Sessions (Round 3)

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Knowledge Sessions (Round 4)

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Reception in Exhibition Hall

Dinner on Your Own

8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Entertainment

Friday, May 8

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Conference Registration

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Breakfast

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Knowledge Sessions (Round 5)

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break

10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Closing Plenary Session — Robert Pruitt

