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THE LATEST

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Group i&i Presenting WDB-focused Workshops at GSETA

Considering changes in the federal legislation that governs funding for state and county-based workforce development, Senior Principal, Toufic Hakim, PhD, and Senior Associate, Dan Passarella, presented two workshops on anticipated roles and responsibilities of Workforce Development Boards under the new law.

Entitled, *WIOA-Empowered Boards*, referring to the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act as the legislation is known, each session focused on the expectation that boards exercise leadership, strategic thinking and creativity to help guide, support, and advance their local and regional workforce systems.

New WIOA guidelines relevant to the workings of the Boards were introduced and participants were engaged in discussions about WDB's missions, roles and responsibilities, and the importance of driving strategic versus tactical decisions.

Among attendees were chairs of Workforce Development Boards, WDB members, State Department of Labor representatives, and American Job Center directors as well as staff. They found the discussions very timely, informative and inspiring. They stated that topics discussed were informative and inspiring. The topics represented areas of interest related well to their experiences and appeared very applicable to their needs. Small group breakouts generated numerous "Ah-ha" revelations as attendees examined new opportunities and strategic directions for boards. "I enjoyed your presentation," shared John Booth, Chair of the Oversight Committee and former Monmouth WDB Chair. "This was a good review of WDB responsibilities of the Board and we had good discussions of the Strategic versus Tactical."

Hearing Board Chairs begin discussing the need to broaden their vision for their Workforce System was very exciting," said Dan Passarella. "WIOA has placed tremendous responsibility at the feet of local volunteer boards who are starving to make a difference through their participation. I believe we were effective in getting the room focused and re-energized."

The workshops were offered on October 4th and 5th, 2017, at the 35th annual New Jersey Garden State Employment & Training Association conference in Atlantic City, NJ. Over 600 individuals gathered at this year's event to learn about current best practices, explore practical workforce tools and solutions, and expand new thinking in the area of Workforce Development.

Group i&i is a firm based in Union, NJ, focused on advancing communities. Through its work, it helps facilitate the development of partnerships, fostering of community dialogue, and empowerment of individuals through education, employment, and personal development. The firm's activities revolve around strategic funding, outcomes and impact evaluations, and forward-looking, strategic organizational development.

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