



Welcome from the Chair

Mary Puryear, Newark WIB Chair

On behalf of the Newark Workforce Investment Board I would like to welcome you to the first Women's Economic Forum hosted by the Board.

We understand that a viable workforce system is critical to the successful economic recovery of all citizens. As women we often serve in dual capacities within our home and at our worksite. Some women may articulate the fulfillment received from their career and others may relish both career and motherhood. But if you are unemployed in today's economic climate that may have placed tremendous stress on you as the job seeker and mother. We hope today's Forum may provide additional options that were not under consideration prior to this day.

As women, we are clear about our main priorities. That is why we wanted to begin our Forum with a resource panel, *Resources for Recovery*, bolstered by resource tables that will provide additional information for housing issues, healthcare and childcare. There are priorities that we must resolve to focus fully on the job search process. Please make sure you visit each and every one of the resource tables as they range from career information, financial literacy, housing, childcare and discounted prescription cards. Our goal is to provide you with options that you may not be aware of in your pursuit of services.

If you are seeking employment and you are not networking or using some of the new job search techniques that include online job applications, linkedin and twitter, you don't want to miss our live demonstration on *Social Media*.

Our second set of panelists, *Keeping your Skill Set Relevant in the Emerging Economy*, will focus on career information that includes how to switch careers if yours is going global and leaving you behind. If you are thinking of starting your own business, small business entrepreneurs will share their experiences.

We are optimistic that some of what is said today as well as some of the tools and resources will help you navigate through our current economic crisis.

Hopefully, we will provide a motivational morning with a dynamic group of women who are willing to share their expertise and personal experiences, as women blazing a trail for others to follow.

Congratulations and many thanks to the staff that worked so hard to put this very special day together.