

**Atlantic Cape May Workforce Investment Board**  
**Post Secondary Education: Survey Findings and Recommendations**  
March 2008

Executive Summary

Nationally, there is a trend emerging in the vocational and career technical education arena to provide academics and industry specific job training in the form of academies for youth (under 18) enrolled through comprehensive high school settings. Locally, the vocational and career technical schools have embraced the change and will begin the implementation or have completed phases towards becoming comprehensive high schools. Although, there is much local support for this movement, from a planning perspective it became necessary to determine if the trend would bring about gaps in services for adults, special needs and underserved populations.

To that end, the Atlantic Cape May Workforce Investment Board (WIB) formed a consortium of WIB Board members, including vocational and career technical schools, the community college and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The consortium was charged with conducting a survey to determine service gaps in vocational and career technical programs in the post secondary education settings. The goal was to review the current course offerings, determine need and make recommendations for future planning. In an effort to perform an accurate gap assessment on the needs at the post secondary education level, some surveying of secondary education (high school) offerings would be necessary.

Members of the committee included: Dr. Philip Guenther, Superintendent of Atlantic County Institute of Technology; Dan Konczyk, United Food and Commercial Workers Union 152 and Chairperson of the Post Secondary Education Committee; Dr. Michael Lazarchick, Workforce Development Manager, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Dr. Dan Loggi, Superintendent of Atlantic County Schools; Robert Matthies, Superintendent of Cape May County Technical High School; Rusty Miller, Director of Continuing Education for Cape May County Technical High School; and Dr. Peter Mora, President of Atlantic Cape Community College.

It's important to note that this report is a representation of the surveys collected and the information provided and may not reflect all program/course offerings available at the secondary and post secondary vocational and career technical levels.

Findings and Recommendations

- There is a need for an **adult high school** to assist youth and adults in attaining a high school credential. On a national level there is a movement, outside of the No Child Left Behind legislation that may require high school students to successfully complete advanced course work in math and science and pass state assessments to attain the credential. It is the opinion of this consortium that this movement will result in higher numbers of students not completing their high school education; thus increasing the numbers of individuals needing remediation, job training and social services in the future. Additionally and according to the New Jersey State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, there are more than 27,000 adults aged 25 and older in Atlantic and Cape May counties without a credential that may have and would benefit from an adult high school. Furthermore, there are more than 500 youth in the bi-county region that have left high school prior to graduation and have not indicated an intention to complete their education at another educational agency.
- There are **few job training programs** in post secondary education settings available for **adults (18+) without a high school or GED credential**. The WIB will advocate for the development or expansion of dual GED and entry level job training programs. Individuals should receive academic support/ completion of high school courses with a goal of attaining a credential while simultaneously learning an entry level job skill for employment.
- **Job training programs** in the post secondary education setting **will be maintained at the current level** to afford adults the opportunity to continue their education to engage in the world of work, increase earnings and advance in their careers. While the WIB and the consortium support the primary premise of a comprehensive high school,

it will not sponsor change that diminishes or discontinues post secondary education programs in demand occupation areas.

- o Begin to look at **duplication of courses and programs** at the county level at a cost savings to the educational institutions through mutual planning and cooperation.
- o **Continue the development of courses and programs driven by industry needs in demand occupations.**
- o Letter drafted to the WIB Board indicating a **change in status or the discontinuation** of any post secondary vocational and career technical courses/programs.

Educational Institutions Surveyed

**A. Atlantic and Cape May County educational institutions surveyed and returned included:**

Atlantic Cape Community College	Atlantic County Institute of Technology	Atlantic County Special Services School
ACT Network (Alternative Schools) Collectively as a group	Cape May County Technical High School	Cape May County Schools for Special Services
The Richard Stockton College of NJ		

**B. Atlantic and Cape May County educational institutions surveyed with no response included:**

Atlantic City Adult High School	Pleasantville Adult High School	Alternative Schools individually
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Survey Results

**A. Youth enrolled in a secondary education (high school) setting.**

There are ample vocational and career technical programs available for youth enrolled in a high school setting or through the county vocational and career technical schools on a full-time or share time basis. The programs included:

Information Technology	Health Sciences *	Automotive Technology
Construction Trades	Cosmetology	Retail (Supermarket)*
Engineering	Environmental/Marine/Landscape*	Early Childhood Education*
Hospitality/Tourism *		

\*Indicates offerings at special services schools. ^ Indicates job shadowing opportunities, not job training or employment for students enrolled at special services schools.

As identified in the survey, there appears to be a gap in secondary vocational and career technical school offerings for youth enrolled in alternative education settings. From survey results, one could assume that many are unable to access the programs for a variety of reasons albeit academic or behavioral.

Cape May County Technical School plans to introduce new secondary education vocational and career technical programs in the 2009-2010 school years and include: Diesel Mechanics, Masonry and Veterinarian Technician.

**B. Adults with a high school/GED credential (non degree programs)**

There are a variety of vocational and career technical programs available at the county vocational schools and community college for adults with a high school or GED credential in the form of continuing education. As identified in the survey, many of the programs available in secondary education are also available in post secondary education. Programs included:

Information Technology	Hospitality/Tourism	Health Sciences
Automotive Technology	Construction Trades	Education
Environmental Studies		

The following non degree programs will be developed over the next two to three years at the post secondary education vocational and career technical level for adults with a high school/GED credential. It's important to note that The Richard

Stockton College of New Jersey entered into the arena of continuing education/non degree programs within the last two years and is still developing programs. \* Indicates programs that may have begun enrollment and offerings.

Atlantic County Institute of Technology

Medical Assistant	Plumbing/HVAC	Building Technology
Dental Radiology	Pastry/Baking	Masonry

Cape May County Technical High School

Veterinarian Technology	Masonry	Diesel Mechanics
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Atlantic Cape Community College

Surgical Technician	Advanced Central Service Technician	Paramedic
Dialysis Technician	Medical Lab Technician	Retail Certification

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Master Naturalist Certificate		
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**C. Adults without a high school/GED credential**

There are fewer than 10 basic vocational and career technical courses available in Cape May County and one at the community college for adults without a credential. There were no courses identified in the survey available at the Atlantic County vocational and technical school. It was noted that adults enrolled in these classes were seeking entry level employment. Courses included:

Medical Office Assistant (Dr. office)	Black Seal License	Auto Repair Basics
Outboard Motor Servicing	HVAC Basics	Electrical House Wiring
Masonry Basics	Introduction to Upholstery	

Research shows that attaining a high school/GED credential helps adults increase earnings and advance in careers. The WIB will advocate that these types of courses be expanded to include GED preparation in the hope that many adults will take advantage of the opportunity and eventually enroll in full time vocational and technical career programs.

There are programs available at no cost in the community to assist youth and adults increase academic skill levels including: Adult Basic Education, GED Preparation and English as a Second Language. However, these programs are strictly academic and do not offer job skills development as a component of the program. The community college does operate a project entitled, "Second Chance," for youth ages 18 + that wish to attain a high school diploma while enrolled in college level courses. There are some academic requirements for enrollment.

**D. Discontinued programs/courses at the secondary and post secondary vocational and career technical level.**

Atlantic County Institute for Technology

Marine Engines (Secondary)		
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Cape May County Technical High School

Building Trades (Secondary)		
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Atlantic Cape Community College

Certified Bookkeeper	I Net Plus Certification	SQL Server 2000
Microcomputer Technologies	Travel and Tourism (A.A.S. Degree)	

\*Reasons cited for discontinuation of programs included: low enrollment and change of industry requirement.

**E. *Underserved populations as identified in the survey in the post secondary vocational and career technical programs.***

Adults without a high school/GED credential	Adults w/disabilities (some transitioning from special services schools)	55+
Youth in alternative school settings	Ex-Offenders	Immigrants

Programs for consideration or future development ideas as identified in the survey for under-served populations included: Hotel Services, Extensive Job Readiness Training (Ex-Offender), CDL Training (Immigrant), IT Training and professional develop courses for mildly disabled youth transitioning into post secondary vocational and career technical education.