

Suburban Companies Find Training resources

>Dr. Edward Yaw, President, County College of Morris



When you hear the name Morris County what comes to your mind first. Wonderful suburban settings? Bucolic towns with beautiful homes? Perhaps, if you are a history buff, it might be that you know that Morristown, in Morris County, served as General George Washington's Winter Headquarters for two winters? How about the fact that Morris County has the fourth highest number of employees or, with

over 17,200, has the fifth highest total of business establishments in New Jersey? Morris County is indeed one of the strongholds of economic activity in the Garden State.

This large concentration of business activity means that those businesses are constantly on the look out to improve their bottom line. One way they have found to attack this issue is by tapping into the NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program, one of the state's true business resources. The County College of Morris has played a key role in the delivery of business focused training since the program's inception in 2007.

Companies such as Solix, Inc., a process outsourcing company serving government and commercial clients; Nisivoccia LLP, a full service CPA and advisory firm; and The Neurosciencecenter of Northern NJ, a neurological medical practice, have all found that many of their staff training needs can be met with funds supplied by the New Jersey Department of Labor and delivered by the County College of Morris and any of the other 18 county colleges.

Focused on implementing a company-wide office software upgrade Solix wanted to prepare its employees properly through an established source it trusted. Ms. Pat Carroll, Director of Benefits and Staff Development reached out to County College of Morris staff to set up customized computer skills training. Ms. Carroll states that the college's trainer was "on target with what we needed to know within our company's environment".

Stephen Van Houten, Director of Human Resources at Nisivoccia LLP, complemented the College staff who were "diligent in meeting the company's needs". He further commented that the training in communications skills "allows our staff to be more proficient in job tasks and more comfortable in dealing with our clients".

The Neurosciencecenter of Northern NJ also made communications skills the focus of their staff training. Ms. Alberta George, Practice Manager said that the training helped staff "...understand our patients. We are still using the techniques we learned in this training".

The Basic Skills Workforce Training Program, provided through a partnership with the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, the NJ Department of Labor, and the NJCCC Consortium on Workforce and Economic Development, has trained over 20,000 employees at more than 1,500 companies in the last three years.

Training is available at business sites or at any of the 67 county college campus facilities statewide. Any New Jersey employer can enroll employees in classes. Businesses are not required to pay tuition or fees for the classes. They are, however, required to pay employees at regular hourly rates during training.

To schedule a class, contact Bob Rosa at NJCCC Consortium on Economic and Workforce Development at rrosa@njworkforce.org or (609) 393-9000.



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