

The NJ Basic Skills Training Program, Popular with Employers and Their Employees, is Lauded by Labor Commissioner Wirths

By Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi, President, Camden County College



(From left to right) Renaissance Marble & Granite Operations Manager Steven Johnson, Camden County College Vice President Edward McDonald and State Senator Fred H. Madden Jr. listen as State Labor Commissioner Harold J. Wirths (left) makes an observation during the Renaissance plant tour.

Nearly 80 percent of New Jersey businesses employ between one and 19 workers, making small business a key driver in the state's economy, according to New Jersey Labor Commissioner Harold Wirths. The commissioner made his comments in a recent visit to Renaissance Marble & Granite Inc. in Blackwood to promote the fourth year of the NJ Basic Skills Workforce Program.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy and we must make programs available to them that provide training, and the NJ Basic Skills Workforce Program is a shining example of a program

that works and has proven results," Wirths said.

There could be no better example of the program's success than the 30 employees at Renaissance Marble who benefited from the training, enrolling in math and computer classes held at Camden County College. Employees have put their sharpened math skills to use while reading drawings and installing countertops. They have also used their new Excel and Outlook skills to communicate more effectively with customers and to better manage their workflow.

The event, which included a press conference and tour, attracted notable guests including Senator Fred Madden, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, Camden County College President Raymond Yannuzzi and NJBIA Vice President Christopher Biddle.

The speakers joined Commissioner Wirths in lauding the training program's success in improving the efficiency and productivity of small businesses by offering no-cost training in math and measurement; written and verbal communications, including customer service communications; and computer applications (Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.); and English as a second language.

Approximately 17,000 employees in more than 1,100 mostly small companies have received training since the program's inception in 2007. Classes are available onsite at the business or at any of the 67 community college facilities statewide. Training is available free of charge to participating companies and does not require business owners to complete any complicated paperwork or make financial disclosures. However, they must pay their employees at their regular hourly rate while in training.

"We are extremely satisfied with the results of the program and know our employees have improved and gained useful insight and valuable skills that will follow them through all stages of their career development," said Renaissance Vice President Brian Kaufmann.

The NJ Basic Skills Workforce Program represents a partnership between the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, and the New Jersey Community Colleges.

To find out how this no-cost training program can work for you, call Bob Rosa at the New Jersey Community College Consortium at 609-393-9000 or send an e-mail to rrosa@njworkforce.org.



Get Training for Your Employees At No Charge to Your Company!

At your company or at any one of 65 college campuses closest to you, and at no extra charge to your company, your employees can get training in:

- Computer applications
- Communications
- Math and measurement
- English as a second language

The NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program is brought to you by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, NJ Community College Consortium, and NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

To get started call
609-393-9000

NJBIA

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To participate in the program, you must be a registered NJ business and in compliance with NJ tax law.