Learning for Work Task Force

Legislation Background for Participants

Welcome,

Tonight's forum is about seeking your input and expertise on how to best address the "middle-skills gap" impacting students, employers and our communities. In an attempt to start a conversation and address this critical issue, the Assembly Minority Conference introduced the "Learning for Work Program."

The "Learning for Work Program" would create a three-part program designed to support career-ready individuals upon high school graduation:

Youth Apprenticeship Program: Create a one- or two-year program beginning in eleventh or twelfth grade that combines academic classroom coursework in a student's home district with mentored on-the-job (and on-site) training in a specific occupational area.

- At least 50 percent of the students participating in the program must be offered employment by the employer that offers the on-the-job training.
- Any student who is not offered, or who decides not to seek, employment in their field of choice would be awarded a minimum of 15 credit hours at any SUNY or CUNY institution.

Enhanced Regents Professional Degree: Students who enroll in the Youth Apprenticeship Program would earn this degree with a specific designation denoting the skills and specific occupational training obtained in their career field of choice.

Youth Apprenticeship Tax Credit: Establish a $1,500 per apprentice tax credit for businesses that take part in the Youth Apprenticeship Program (**A.4255, Ra**).

Using the information from these events, we hope to have a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of this current legislation, and what other policies we could implement to ensure a workforce that is trained for "middle-skills jobs." Your insight, shared experiences and background will help shape the future of this legislation and accompanying policy proposals aimed at preparing students for the 21st Century workforce.

Ken Blankenbush Michael J Norris

Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush Assemblyman Mike Norris
Task Force Co-Chairman Task Force Co-Chairman