

The Workforce Creation and Adult Education Transition Council

ANNOUNCEMENT from *Thomas Perez and Nancy Grasmick, Co-chairs of
The Workforce Creation and Adult Education Transition Council*

Interest in Participation

On April 24, 2008 Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law Senate Bill 203, legislation to transfer oversight of adult education and literacy programs, the GED Testing Office, and adult correctional education from the Maryland State Department of Education to the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's (DLLR) Division of Workforce Development. This new alignment of adult education, correctional education and workforce development is a central part of the Governor's vision for a comprehensive and collaborative system of workforce creation for Maryland.

While the actual program transfer will not occur until July 1, 2009, an extensive transition process will take place in the interim. The law establishes a Workforce Creation and Adult Education Transition Council to begin work on July 1, 2008 designing a new framework for aligning these programs. The Council must complete its work and provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a report by December 31, 2008 that outlines the plan for the seamless transition of adult and correctional education programs and personnel to DLLR. The Transition Council's report must include:

- Strategies for ensuring program continuity for clients of the affected programs;
- Strategies for ensuring continuity in the state administration of affected grant program;
- Provisions regarding affected employees, including a specific analysis of the transfer of employees with shared responsibilities for adult correctional education and juvenile services education such as grant managers and program coordinators;
- Strategies for coordinating the activities and responsibilities of units of state government involved in administering the transferred programs; and
- Strategies for addressing potential challenges to implementing the transition of the affected programs in a manner that ensures the continued delivery of quality content to clients of the affected programs.

The Transition Council will offer many opportunities for participation and input from stakeholders around the State. This will include a series of regional meetings beginning this summer. Public input is critical as the Council addresses the following:

- Developing a plan for the seamless transition of the Adult Education, Literacy, and Correctional Education Programs from the State Department of Education to DLLR;
- Actively assisting in the development of a new State Plan for Adult Education;
- Identifying existing Adult Education Programs in other units of State government and develop strategies to make the agencies part of a coordinated program;
- Recommending a framework for a new State system of delivering adult education and workforce programs through DLLR;
- Reviewing the overlapping responsibilities of Correctional Education as they relate to implementation of Adult Correctional Education and Juvenile Services Education;
- Determining the advisability of transferring Correctional Education services in light of the potential negative impact the transfer could have on the effective operation of Juvenile Services Education; and
- Recommending the composition and responsibilities of a State Advisory Council on Adult Education, Literacy, and Workforce Development.

The Secretary of DLLR and the State Superintendent of Schools will co-chair the Council. Included on the Council will be two members of the General Assembly, the Secretaries of the Departments of Business and Economic Development and Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Secretary of the Higher Education Commission, the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland and the Chair of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. In addition there will be representation from the Maryland Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education, the Maryland Workforce Development Association and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges. Governor O'Malley will appoint 10 members to the Transition Council representing the following communities of interest:

- Family Literacy
- Adult Basic Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Workplace Literacy
- Correctional Education
- Community Libraries
- English as a Second Language Providers
- Organized Labor
- Employers
- Nonprofit Organizations involved in programs to promote economic self-sufficiency

Broad participation in the Council's work is important to ensure input from a wide variety of stakeholders and experts. The Council will establish working groups to look at specific issues, and we fully expect that there will be ample opportunities for interested parties to participate in this important process over the coming year.

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Transition Council or participating in a working group, please complete the [attached application](#) and send or email it to both of the following individuals by **Friday, May 16, 2008**:

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