

Greater Raritan

Workforce Development Board



A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network

NEWSLETTER

Career Resources & News for Businesses and Job Seekers in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties

2024 Greater Raritan Job Fair set to feature 80-plus exhibitors



Employer and community registration is available for the Greater Raritan 2024 Job Fair being presented at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Society on Route 202-206 in Bridgewater from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.

This third annual event is presented by The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board and the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development in collaboration with the temple. Employers in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties as well as surrounding counties are invited to take part to connect their open positions with the hundreds of job seekers who will be in attendance. The job fair, which has attracted 350-plus job seekers annually, is free for employers and job seekers to attend.

Businesses! Join the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board

2024 GRWDB Job Fair

Tuesday June 4, 2024 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hindu Temple and Cultural Society

Balaji Temple Auditorium, North Hall, Somerset Hill, 1 Balaji Temple Drive off of Route 202-206, Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

Space is available for up to 100-plus employers from Hunterdon and Somerset Counties representing all industry sectors.

Free to participate! Registration closes Monday, May 20. To register, use this QR code or go to: <https://bit.ly/3vH6yww>

Questions: Call GRWDB Director Paul Grattia at 908-541-5790 or email info@thegrwdb.org

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All employers must have several job openings for talent to fill. The positions can be full-time or part-time or internships.

Cosponsored by: Hunterdon County, Somerset County, One-Stop Career Center, DOI, NJ State Police, Somerset County.

The event also will feature information on career resources, and a job seeker workshop presented by Jan Goodman, the Community Outreach Specialist for the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Training Center.

Businesses and agencies interested in registering to be part of the fair may

visit <https://bit.ly/3vH6yww> or use the QR code in **this flyer**.

Each business/agency registrant will be given an assigned table and two chairs. Employer registration will close on Monday, May 20. Prior to the event, employers will received a map showing the location of their tables and details about the event.

See June Job Fair, Page 2

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board

HUNTERDON COUNTY

One-Stop Career Training Center

Take the GED Test Here

What's Needed to Take the Online GED Test

- Computer, Webcam, Internet
- Private Workspace
- Government Issued ID
- Valid GED Ready Score

How can we help?

- We can provide a quiet space and device for your test in either location below.
- Did you score "in the green" on your recent GED Ready test? Let's pick a date for your test.
- Arrive at least 45 minutes before your scheduled test time.
- We'll help you log in to GED.com 30 minutes before your test appointment to launch your test.
- Any additional information or assistance, contact us at adultliteracy@hunterdoncountynj.org

Hunterdon County: 8 Bartles Corner Road, Suite 205 Flemington (908) 237-5000

Somerset County: 27 Warren Street, 2nd floor Somerville (908) 541-5780

Workforce Resources Help Residents Achieve Diplomas, Career Goals

Residents of Somerset and Hunterdon counties who want to complete their high school diploma or further their personal career goals can use different programs available through the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) and its partners.

The Workforce Learning Link, with locations in Flemington and Somerville, provides free assistance to eligible New Jersey residents 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in school and are legally able to work in the U.S. Program participants can:

- Get assistance with high school diploma attainment, including help with studying and testing.

See Diplomas & More Page 4

June Job Fair

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More than 60 businesses and agencies have registered to attend the event, as of May 10. **Click here to view the employer registrants**, including the industries represented and the hundreds of jobs employers are seeking to fill. This list will continue to be updated on the home page of www.thegrwdb.org, in the main story about the Job Fair.

Community members and job seekers from around the region are welcome and should bring their resumes and a willingness to network. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet dozens of employers, hiring managers, and personnel during this free event.

In addition, at 10:30 a.m. Goodman will present a workshop on Multiple Natures, which is a career discovery, job transition, recruitment and life coaching assessment tool. Each person has a unique set of traits which provides a predisposition towards different types of work and activities. Multiple Natures is designed to assist individuals in their quest for self-improvement and finding the flow to fulfill their true potential.

While walk-ins are welcomed, registration is appreciated. To register, use the QR code in **this flyer** or go to <https://bit.ly/3QiSq3F>.

For more information contact GRWDB Director Paulf Grzella at info@thegrwdb.org or 908-541-5790.

Ignite your job search!
Attend the FREE



2024 Job Fair



At the GRWDB Job Fair job seekers can:

- Meet and network with up to 100-plus employers from Hunterdon and Somerset Counties and the surrounding region.
- Submit resumes for hundreds of full-time, part-time and internship positions.
- Get valuable career advice at a workshop with Greater Raritan Career Coach Jan Goodman.

The list of attendees will be updated here on the www.thegrwdb.org throughout the month of May.

Tuesday
June 4, 2024
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hindu Temple and Cultural Society

Balaji Temple Auditorium,
North Hall, Banquet Hall,
1 Balaji Temple Drive
(off of Route 202-206),
Bridgewater, NJ, 08807



This a free event. Walk-ins are welcome, and registration is optional. Register at <https://bit.ly/3QiSq3F> or use the QR code. Questions? Email info@thegrwdb.org.



GRWDB team member Jeanne Cassano attended Assemblyman Joe Daniels's Free Job on April 24 at the Imperia in Franklin. It was one of many events Cassano staffed for the GRWDB his spring.

The GRWDB brings Resources to Community

The new year brought a new title and expanded responsibilities to Jeanne Cassano who started with the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) in the fall of 2019 as the staff job developer.

Cassano, a Hunterdon County resident, is now the GRWDB Contract Compliance and Engagement Specialist. In this role, she led the contract monitoring process for the different vendors supplying programmatic support for GRWDB-funded services in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. These reports were shared with the GRWDB Board during its April 3 meeting, and can be viewed here.

She also was out and about in the community, representing Local Area workforce services at multiple high school career events and community events, including at Assemblyman's Joe Daniels's Free Job Fair Franklin. on April 24

These events gave Cassano the opportunity to talk with employers and young job seekers about the GRWDB's many programs, including the 2024 Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which this years runs for May 14 to Oct. 30. Cassano, who has been the coordinator of the summer program for five years, was able to talk with new employer and youth candidates who hadn't previously been involved with the program.

The GRWDB has received \$297,248 from the New Jersey Department of Labor which will fund 80 positions in businesses around the county. This year, participants will receive \$3,200 for 200 hours of work experience. In addition, Somerset County is supporting at least 10 additional positions using American Rescue Plan funding. Right now Cassano is working with the new part-time SYWEP Navigator Wankeith Akin (a previous program participant) on the matching process, so the youth participants can start in June. To have Cassano come to your event, contact her at Jcassano@co.somerset.nj.us.

GRWDB National Youth Apprenticeship Event draws hundreds

In recognition of the first Youth Apprenticeship Week, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) hosted a free YAW Career Event on Monday, May 6, at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg.

Nearly 30 state, county and local businesses, agencies provided apprenticeship opportunities, career information and networking opportunities to more than 130 youth, parents and community members who wanted to learn about different apprenticeship-related career pathways. Among those on hand was Hunterdon County Commissioner Director Jeff Kuhl, who presented a proclamation about the event and the new national week.

"I want to thank members of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board for organizing this event for students in middle school, high school, and college, as well as recent graduates, to gain a better understanding of the importance of career planning. This is a great venue for attendees to network, meet, and talk with agencies looking to recruit new employees for their organizations," Kuhl said. "Additionally, apprenticeship programs provide ... a path for any qualified individuals to contribute to America's growing industries."

Somerset County also supported this workforce development effort. Somerset County Board of Commissioners Deputy Director Sara Sooy presented proclamation about the event to GRWDB Director Paul Grzella during the Board's April 23 meeting.

The free event included a series of short presentations from different businesses and agencies about the benefits of learning an occupation through the apprenticeship model. A plumber and educator spoke along with representatives from Hunterdon County Polytech and Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School. In addition, a light meal was available, courtesy of ShopRite of Hunterdon County. The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship also was in attendance, offering information to businesses and job seekers about the value of the apprenticeship career pathway model.

The goal of the event was to build connections, and as they left, many job seekers, students and parents said they took away a lot of information and ideas.

Ryan Roberts, director of Human Resources for Magna Power in Flemington, said that "a couple of students came to my table stating they were there specifically to speak to me about electronics assembly as a career. One



Hunterdon County Commissioner Director Jeff Kuhl, right, presented a proclamation to GRWDB Director Paul Grzella during the GRWDB's National Youth Apprenticeship Week Event on May 6 at Raritan Valley Community College. The event drew a few hundred youth, parents, job seekers and businesses.



student knows a current employee who came from Somerset County Vo-Tech High School and is looking to start a Co-Op come the Fall. I also made a connection Hunterdon Vo-Tech that is looking to have me speak with adult learner students. So, it's always good to get out there and make connections."

Youth Apprenticeship Week is a new nationwide celebration that highlights the benefits and value of registered apprenticeship program opportunities for youth.



*First Steps Basic English began in the fall of 2023 with \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan funding from the Somerset County Board of Commissioners. A collaboration led by the the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board working with the Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission and Raritan Valley Community College, it has served 156 English-language learners thus far. **Click here** to listen to a powerful video produced by the Somerset County Public Information Office. Learn more at <https://www.thegrwdb.org/esl/>.*

Every month, One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor files a monthly summary of activities from all partners, focusing on successes and stories. The April report includes two beautiful success stories as well as



a summary of an exciting new initiative being championed by Almonor to identify a more dynamic way to match job seekers entering the local system to businesses hiring right now. Click on the image above to read the April report and go to the About: Greater Raritan's One-Stop Partners page to read past reports as details about new strategy-brainstorming sessions with stakeholders.

Diplomas & more

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- Upgrade their skills to enter an occupational training or post-secondary education program.
- Enhance their basic literacy and computer skills to obtain or maintain work.

Learning Link program participants also can be connected to a variety of career-related training and workforce-readiness programs available through the GRWDB and its partners.

Residents who have a recent “Green” GED Ready Score and need a site to take the Online GED TEST can now make an appointment to take their test in a quiet, private space using computers supplied by the GRWDB and its partners.

The testing sites are connected to the Workforce Learning Link locations in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties and are available by appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The locations are at 8 Bartles Corner Road, Suite 205, Flemington, in Hunterdon County and in at 27 Warren St., second floor, Somerville, in Somerset County.

For more information or assistance with starting the appointment process for a GED testing, email adultliteracy@hunterdonesc.org.

The new GED community testing initiative is supported by the GRWDB, which provided funding in 2023 for the purchase of a new testing computer in Flemington. In Somerville, the computers were upgraded using other GRWDB funding.

Greater Raritan Training Center news



Below, the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Training Services Center has two Career Cafe events planned for this spring and early summer.

Now Brewing!
Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Training Services Center's
Career Cafe
SERVING YOU A FRESH BLEND OF JOB SEEKER RESOURCES!
If you are a job seeker, Community or Faith-Based Organization, One-Stop or Workforce Partner please join us for coffee, cookies, and a casual conversation about our menu of services!
April 26, 2024
May 31, 2024
June 28, 2024
2:00PM – 4:00PM
One-Stop Career Training Services Center
27 WARREN STREET - 2ND FLOOR
SOMERVILLE NJ
Our doors are open!
Questions? Reach us at onestop@co.somerset.nj.us or 908-541-5780

Director Services Coordinator Christopher Peake and Youth Employment Career Navigator Sofia Bandeira attended the Pennsylvania Workforce conference in Hershey on May 1-3. This is part of a new training-development initiative championed and funded by local workforce systems.



Thanks for reading!

Past issues of the GRWDB newsletter can be found on the **Events - Stay Informed** tab of www.thegrwdb.org. Follow the GRWDB on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and be sure to bookmark the **Events-Calendar** tab. All board and committee meetings are open to the public; go **here** for the schedule and meeting packages. Community members are welcomed to contact us with their questions and ideas. In addition, we are happy to meet with any business, community agency or public body in Hunterdon and Somerset counties to explain how system services work. **Contact Director Paul Grzella to get on a weekly Resources email list, and sign up for Greater Raritan's weekly (and very convenient!) text alert service.** To contact us:

Text OneStop to **56512**
for information on One-Stop services and to receive text message updates on upcoming hiring events and workshops

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