

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
**Labor & Workforce Development**  
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**Governor Christie Announces Launch of Talent Development Centers**

*New Initiative Promotes Industry Partnerships with Higher Education*

**CRANFORD, N.J., April 14, 2016**– Building on New Jersey’s commitment to align the state’s workforce with the needs of employers, Governor Christie today announced the launch of three new Talent Development Centers to promote industry partnerships with the state’s higher education institutions.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development spearheaded the creation of three Talent Development Centers at institutions of higher education to serve as “centers for excellence” for providing workforce training and skill development focused on a specific, key industry in New Jersey: Advanced Manufacturing at Camden County College, Health Care at Rutgers University and Transportation, Logistics and Distribution at Union County College. These centers will also serve as anchors for expanded high-quality, employer-driven partnerships and will further build the capacity of the state’s higher education institutions to provide education and training aligned with the needs of the state’s key industries.

“We have been very successful in our approach to align our workforce development efforts with the needs of our major industry sectors,” said Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. “The Talent Development Centers will build on our existing partnerships and ensure that New Jersey’s workforce remains one of the most highly-skilled in the nation.”

The primary mission of each Talent Development Center will be to provide industry-focused training for dislocated, currently employed, and incumbent workers. The new Talent Development Centers will coordinate their efforts with support from the state’s industry-specific Talent Networks, which were established in 2011 to facilitate the development of new partnerships between employers, educational institutions and workforce development programs.

Each Talent Development Center has been awarded \$900,000 from the state’s Workforce Development Partnership Program to provide workforce development training programs in their respective industries. To receive this funding, each institution had to demonstrate subject matter expertise in their selected industry sector and the ability to connect with New Jersey employers, industry associations, Talent Networks and other education institutions to provide needed industry-specific training to a statewide audience of jobseekers, businesses and business employees. The institutions had to also demonstrate a commitment to increase their capacity to educate and train individuals for jobs in their industries of focus, well beyond the training funded directly through this initiative.