
PRESS RELEASE

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**CITY OF NEWARK HIRES GRANT ASSOCIATES TO EMPLOY ITS RENOWNED NATIONAL
WORKFORCE MODEL TO CONNECT AREA BUSINESSES WITH QUALIFIED, JOB-READY RESIDENTS**

Grant Associates Joins Mayor Cory A. Booker to Launch Newark JOBS CONNECT

Newark, NJ - Grant Associates, a national workforce development company, in collaboration with the City of Newark, today officially launched Newark JOBS CONNECT, a business and employment center to connect Newark area businesses with qualified, job-ready residents.

On Monday, Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker, Grant Associates President Dale Grant, Grant Associates Senior Vice President of National Operations Diane Edelson, the Newark Municipal Council, Deputy Mayor for Economic and Housing Development Adam Zipkin, and the Newark Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) Executive Director Nelida Valentin and NWIB Board of Directors Member Chip Hallock cut the ribbon at the Newark JOBS CONNECT center, located at 1008 Broad Street in downtown Newark.

"The team that we assembled is now exceeding all of the federal benchmarks and doing an incredible job. But we don't satisfy ourselves with being good, because if better is possible, good is not enough. And the standard in Newark should never be good. It should be the best," Mayor Booker said at Monday's event, adding, "We should set a model in our country. In fact, that's what the mission statement is for the city. We always want to set a national model at the highest level. I'm very proud that when we looked around the nation and saw who is doing better... we saw that Grant Associates was doing an incredible job and was really creating that national model. You all came in and now we're a partnership. What you see today is not easy. Nothing worthwhile is ever easy. This is a tremendous marriage that's going to produce incredible fruit for our community."

"The fact that Mayor Booker is here today to join us is testament to the importance of this center to the city of Newark. Grant Associates is proud to be a part of this enterprise. We're going to deliver. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of it," Ms. Grant said at Monday's ribbon cutting.

As an established leader in the workforce development field, Grant Associates is renowned for its unique model that helps people find jobs through strong connections in the community and a deep understanding of business' need for qualified employees. Grant Associates has placed almost 100,000 people in jobs in major U.S. cities since it began operations in 1998. Newark JOBS CONNECT represents an extension of the company's recent efforts to focus on cities where the unemployed have faced the most serious challenges in finding jobs. Operations started last year by Grant Associates in Detroit and Washington D.C. have already resulted in jobs for thousands of unemployed individuals. Grant Associates' strategy entails cultivating relationships with businesses and helping people to not only find jobs, but to attain long-term self-sufficiency and career growth.

"We understand Newark's economic climate, as well as the city's industry trends, and will leverage our expertise to create a win-win situation for all stakeholders," said Ms. Edelson. "This is an opportunity to collaborate with the City of Newark, its residents, businesses, and community partners, as well as to build strong relationships and create successful outcomes for both jobseekers and employers."

The Newark JOBS CONNECT center offers jobseekers free daily workshops for résumé writing, effective job search techniques, job interviewing, career coaching and assistance in connecting with local employers in need of hiring qualified employees. The program will assist jobseekers in either upgrading their skills or

changing their career track to work in various recession-proof industry sectors, including retail, hospitality, security, transportation, healthcare, information technology and others. The staff at the center also will provide a host of no-cost services to employers, including recruitment, job candidate screening, job ad posting and post-employment support, plus sponsor recruitment events.

Newark JOBS CONNECT started limited operations about two weeks ago and has already demonstrated a successful workforce strategy. One customer is receiving training and next month will start his new job as a driver with Coach USA. Other companies and partners involved in this initiative include CVS, Target, FedEx, EZ Ride Shuttles, Executive Care, Express Employment Professionals, Newark Now, Harmony House, Integrity House, Goodwill Industries, West Ward Economic Development Corporation and Brick City Development Corporation.

“Employers want to do the right thing, they want to work with the City and provide as many opportunities for Newark residents as they can, but they have a business to run and we need to make things as easy as possible for them. We need to create a pre-screened, pre-qualified pipeline of workers to send them to interview, and if we do that, they will hire them,” Deputy Mayor Zipkin said at the ribbon cutting.

About Grant Associates

Grant Associates is a workforce development Company with a proven model that engages businesses and jobseekers by implementing programs that result in increased employment, advance life-long educational development and spur economic growth. Since 1997, Grant Associates has partnered with government to bridge the gap between the private and public sectors in order to enhance people's lives, address business challenges and strengthen communities. The company operates award-winning workforce programs in Newark, NJ, New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, GA and Detroit, MI. As an established leader in the field, the company offers unparalleled experience managing job placement programs for primarily low-income individuals.

Workforce and Business Centers operated by Grant Associates:

- **Newark JOBS CONNECT**, Newark NJ
- **Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center**, including two satellite centers in Sunset Park and Brooklyn Library at Grand Army Plaza
- **Employment Works** for ex-offenders housed in the Brooklyn Workforce1 Center
- **Queens Workforce1 Career Center**, including a satellite centers in the Flushing Queens library and Midtown Manhattan
- **Industrial and Transportation Career Center** housed in the Queens Workforce1 Center
- **NYC Business Solutions Centers** in Jamaica, NY and Bronx, NY
- **Back to Work** (Welfare to Work programs), with two centers located in Manhattan
- **Career Directions**, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Washington D.C.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, Atlanta, GA
- **Detroit Employment Solutions Corp.**, Detroit, MI, a One-Stop program aimed at attracting, preparing, and connecting qualified candidates to job opportunities in the Detroit area

For more information on programs operated by Grant Associates and customer success stories visit www.grantassociatesinc.com.

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