

MARYLAND WORKFORCE



www.mdworkforceassociation.org

MWA Members

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel Workforce
Development Corporation
Kirkland Murray, Local Director

Baltimore City

Mayor's Office of Employment
Development
Jason Perkins-Cohen, Director

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Office of
Workforce Development
Mary Manzoni, Manager

Frederick County

Frederick County Workforce Services
Michelle Day, Director

Lower Shore

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,
Counties)
Rebecca Webster, Director

Mid-Maryland

Columbia Workforce Center, Carroll
County Business & Employment
Resource Center (Carroll & Howard
Counties) *Francine Trout, Director*

Prince George's County

Prince George's County Local
Workforce Development Board
Walter Simmons, Executive Director

Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland JobSource
(Calvert, Charles, &
St. Mary's Counties)
Ruthy Davis, Director

Susquehanna Region

Susquehanna Workforce Network,
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)
Bruce England, Executive Director

Upper Shore

Upper Shore Workforce Investment
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)
Daniel McDermott, Executive Director

Western Maryland

Western Maryland Consortium
(Allegany, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Debora Gilbert, Executive Director

September 17, 2018

Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chairman
Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

Dr. Kirwan:

The Maryland Workforce Association, composed of Maryland's twelve Workforce Development Board Directors, encourages your consideration of expanding the role of the American Job Centers in Maryland to support the transition of students from local school systems to careers. We are aware that Senator Rosapepe has given this some consideration.

The American Job Centers are a partnership that includes multiple federally funded employment and training initiatives. The Centers are hubs of workforce development activities that provide valuable assistance to residents seeking career and employment options. Enhancing the American Job Centers' mission and capacity through nonfederal funding will allow the Workforce Development Boards to provide a robust array of services to students and parents.

The Maryland Workforce Association and Local Workforce Development Boards are natural conveners and honest brokers of information and referral that can bring expertise and assets into the discussion of an enhanced role of the American Job Centers. These include:

- Engage with business and conduct data analysis on future workforce needs
- Develop career plans and pathways so that students (and parents) fully understand the opportunities and what it will take to reach their goal
- Engage 1000's of parents who visit the American Job Centers

We would be eager to engage with the Commission, Commission Working Groups, and Commission Sub Groups to assist in defining and implementing an enhanced role for the American Job Centers.

Together we can support and facilitate career options for all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

Bruce England, Vice President
Maryland Workforce Association