



# Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

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“Building Partnerships for Workforce Solutions”

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Further Information Contact:**

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**HEADLINE: SQUARE 1 – A Jump-Start to Employment Opportunities**

**Poughkeepsie, New York, March 1, 2006** – The Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board has designed a half day youth summit to expose in-school and out-of-school emerging workers between the ages of 16 and 21 to local workforce information and resources. The goal of the summit is to help emerging workers understand the variety of employment options available, to guide their career choices and to inspire them to action. Taking place Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at Bright Horizons at Casperkill on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie SQUARE 1 is about beginning your career; the steps that go into making the best decisions for each individual to find personal success.

The morning will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Felicia A. Watson, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, New York State Center for School Safety. Dr. Watson is a lifelong resident of Dutchess County and a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School. Six moderated career panels will follow. The panels will present an opportunity for emerging workers to learn about a specific career, industry and company. The DCWIB encourages professionals still in the early stages of their careers to participate in the panels to share their career path and demonstrate how many different paths can lead to success. Concurrent to these sessions, and running beyond the formal agenda will be a job fair. This job fair, co-coordinated by Hands On! The Hudson Valley, may offer full-time or part-time jobs or internships. Businesses are encouraged to attend even if openings are not available so emerging workers can have an opportunity to find out what employers exist in Dutchess County and what skills it takes to get a job there when there are open positions. The day will conclude with round-table discussions lead by 16-21 year old volunteers to address the contents of the summit and to identify what information and resources from the business community needs to reach the participants on a regular and steady basis.

SQUARE 1 sponsors are the Amenia Chamber of Commerce, Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce and Sedore & Company CPA's P.C and the Dutchess County Youth Bureau through a Youth-Asset mini grant. *“Youth Assets opportunities build healthy, caring, responsible young adults.”*

Businesses are invited to register for the job fair or the career panels by contacting Laraine Kautz at (845) 463-0517 x 204 or [LKautz@dcwib.org](mailto:LKautz@dcwib.org) and guidance counselors or program coordinators are invited to register students online at [www.dcwib.org](http://www.dcwib.org).

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*Workforce Investment Boards administer federal funds for job counseling and training, and are advocates for workforce issues to help employers and employees improve their competitiveness in business.*

*The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by moneys received from the County of Dutchess, the New York State Workforce Investment Board and the New York State Department of Labor.*

*EOE/P, auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities*