



Building a Skilled and Thriving Workforce

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Philadelphia Works Opens Northwest Philadelphia Integrated PA CareerLink® Center**

*Grand opening celebration marks final stage in implementation of the “No Wrong Door” service delivery model*

**PHILADELPHIA-** Philadelphia Works, the city’s workforce development board, today joined with Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Kathy Manderino and representatives from the City of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to celebrate the opening of the new integrated PA CareerLink® Northwest Philadelphia center at 5847 Germantown Avenue. This new Northwest center is one of four integrated PA CareerLink® centers now operating in convenient locations across the city under the “No Wrong Door” model of workforce service delivery.

“This is an exciting day for residents of Northwest Philadelphia, and all those Philadelphians who are in need of a better life,” said Mayor Jim Kenney. “These integrated PA CareerLink® centers are key to providing every Philadelphian the chance to work a good job with family-sustaining wages. Whether you are a job seeker or employer, I encourage you to utilize this new model that ensures we find, develop and ultimately hire talented workers right here in our own back yard.”

Philadelphia Works designed the “No Wrong Door” model to make it easier and more efficient for job seekers and employers to connect with one another. Under the previous system, two completely separate systems served very similar purposes, but for two different populations. Under the new “No Wrong Door” model, the EARN program, a service previously for only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, is now integrated into the PA CareerLink® center. The new model ensures ‘one-stop shopping’ meaning no matter how a job seeker or employer enters the system - through a center, on-line or through a community-based organization - there will be “no wrong door” and they will be able to access the same types of services.

“What we are celebrating today is the completion of a process that has been over three years in the making,” said Mark Edwards, President and CEO of Philadelphia Works. “Overhauling the public workforce system for the fifth largest city in America has been no small task, and I would like to thank the countless individuals, staff, board members and other partners who have worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality. These new integrated centers are the future of workforce service delivery for employers and job seekers alike. We are proud to be leading the charge in creating a model for sustainable workforce development in the City of Philadelphia.”

At the new PA CareerLink® centers, job seekers can expect expanded workshops to assist with developing workplace skills that will make them more competitive in the job market. Additionally, new career readiness services will be made available through community-based organizations, furthering the reach of PA CareerLink® resources into additional neighborhoods throughout the city. A wide array of new training and other informational videos will also be available on-line via a new YouTube channel and through the PA CareerLink® Philadelphia website.

“Labor and Industry is proud to be involved in this effort to make services accessible and complete,” said Secretary Manderino. “This integration truly means only the right door to success for all residents and businesses of the great city of Philadelphia. “

Over the course of the past year, three additional PA CareerLink® centers have relocated and are currently serving job seekers from across the city. The other locations include: 5070 Parkside Avenue, serving West and Southwest Philadelphia; 4261 N 5th Street, serving North, near Northeast and upper Northeast areas of Philadelphia; and 1617 JFK Boulevard, serving Center City and South Philadelphia.

The new integrated PA CareerLink® Centers are operated by a consortium of workforce partners that include contracted service providers, L&I, PA Department of Human Services and the L&I Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The selected service providers who have been awarded contracts to operate in the new integrated PA CareerLink® centers are: JEVS Human Services (Center City), SER-Metro (West Philadelphia), Impact Services Corporation (Northwest Philadelphia) and Nueva Esperanza (North Philadelphia). A fifth service provider, Educational Data Systems Incorporated (EDSI), has been awarded a contract to serve a new role as the “cross-center service provider,” which will operate as an intermediary in order to ensure consistent services between the new physical locations, as well as oversee the community outreach and business services initiatives to connect with outside organizations.

More information on the “No Wrong Door” model, including a fact sheet and timeline, can be found on the Philadelphia Works’ website at <http://www.philaworks.org/service-providers-educators/no-wrong-door>.

### ***About Philadelphia Works***

Philadelphia Works is the city’s Workforce Development Board, investing in solutions and services to grow Philadelphia’s economy by connecting employers to workforce talent and career seekers to jobs. We influence the public policies that support economic growth, and optimize funding and resources to invest in regional solutions to build a skilled and thriving workforce. For more information about our dedicated board members and staff, workforce research, labor market data, services and initiatives, and to view success stories, please visit <http://www.philaworks.org>.