

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**For Information Contact:  
Alice Savino (315)793-6037**

## **Workforce Develop Board Receives Grant To Train Women for Technology Careers**

To build upon its cutting-edge programs that help Upstate New York job-seekers connect with good-paying jobs, the Workforce Development Board on Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$716,676 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grant will help women enter apprenticeships in the high growth information technology sector while helping local employers recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled workforce.

The project builds upon the WDB's American Apprenticeship Initiative, which broke ground in New York State through its development of Registered Apprenticeships in the information technology sector.

"This grant will allow us to tap into the vast pool of talented women in our region who have the potential to enter the IT and cybersecurity sector, but have not have the training needed to enter apprenticeships that employers are creating all around us," said Alice Savino, executive Director of the WDB.

The project will develop a pre-apprenticeship pathway to help women build their skills while also addressing the real world balancing act of juggling child care and other responsibilities faced by working women. It plans to help 200 women enter apprenticeships being created across the Mohawk Valley and Upstate New York.

"Upstate New York has always been a region where we have understood and recognized the importance of collaboration and partnerships between employers and our workforce development agencies," Savino said. "This is a time when our region has unlimited potential due to the growth of new high-tech, high-growth career sectors and the resurgence of traditional sectors such as manufacturing. This project has been designed to be the catalyst that helps women connect with education and then connect with good-paying jobs."

The project also features an aggressive outreach plan to help women making career choices enter the sector.

"We want the women who are considering technology careers to have the tools and support they need for success," Savino said. "We want to share the many success stories in our region with young women who are making life and career choices so that they can understand that this sector is one where they can achieve success."

The WDB was among six organizations nationally that were awarded grants.

"The Women's Bureau is honored to administer the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grants," said Women's Bureau Director Laurie Todd-Smith, Ph.D.

“This grant program provides funding to community organizations to help women reach self-sufficiency by providing the skills needed to pursue careers that they may have thought were out of reach to them.”

Savino noted that the WDB will be working closely with partners including the New York State Department of Labor, Mohawk Valley Community College, Griffiss Institute and Empowered Pathways to implement a comprehensive project that will increase the numbers of women seeking to enter the IT sector.

“We want the gates of opportunity to be wide open for everyone,” Savino said. “The WDB’s commitment has been to serve the all people of our region. With this project and these partnerships, we are happy to have the opportunity to implement this project.

*The WDB sets workforce strategy and goals for the Working Solutions System, which includes Working Solutions Centers in Utica, Rome, Herkimer and Oneida. The WDB works with employers on an on-going basis to provide training to meet the needs of employers and job-seekers. The WDB works with a broad coalition of public and private partners to develop innovative solutions to the region’s short-term and long-term workforce development needs. Employers with training needs should contact the WDB for help in developing solutions. Contact Alice J. Savino, Executive Director, 209 Elizabeth St., Utica, NY 13501. Phone: 315-793-6037. e-mail: [asavino@working-solutions.org](mailto:asavino@working-solutions.org).*