



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## RITCHIE JOINS COLLEAGUES TO RELEASE REPORT ON IMPROVING WORKFORCE TRAINING, STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS

PATTY RITCHIE May 24, 2016



State Senator Patty Ritchie joined fellow members of the New York State Senate Task Force on Workforce Development in [releasing a report](#) on how the state can help improve employee readiness and strengthen the connection between job-seekers and employers.

The report is the result of findings and recommendations collected via forums held across the state and meetings with leaders in business, labor, public education, higher education

and local government, as well as workforce training and development experts.

“The strength of New York’s economy depends on good jobs—and a trained and ready workforce,” said Senator Ritchie.

“This report outlines steps we can take right now to improve employee readiness, better meet workforce needs and strengthen the connections between job-seekers and employers. As I continue my efforts to promote career readiness and create new opportunities for New Yorkers, I am looking forward to working toward implementing the reforms outlined in this report.”

Key recommendations included in the report released Tuesday include:

- Cultivating forward-facing employment data from the State Department of Labor, which will help to highlight areas that will need trained employees in coming years;
- Increasing access to career and tech programs at BOCES;
- Increasing access to continuing adult education programs at BOCES;
- Improving participation in apprenticeships by promoting coordination between guidance counselors and local building trades councils;
- Increasing funding for the Next Generation Job Linkage Program, which fosters connections between community college training programs and local employers, as well as the HIRE Program, which seeks to connect recent SUNY graduates with certificate programs; and
- Establishing new degree or certificate programs based on future regional industry needs.

Release of the report builds on Senator Ritchie’s prior efforts to promote workforce training and connect employers with job-seekers. Recently, she advocated alongside her colleagues for the inclusion of key funding in the state budget to help achieve these goals, including \$20

million in additional funding for Community Colleges—which play a key role in helping young people prepare for careers—\$7.9 million for the state’s Workforce Development Institute, \$5 million for the New York’s Next Generation Job Linkage Program and \$5 million for the SUNY/CUNY Apprentice Initiative.

In addition, Senator Ritchie has also worked to secure funding benefitting students at local career and technical training schools, including support for culinary, agriculture and other programs. Most recently, Senator Ritchie delivered \$200,000 in funding to help launch the new North Country Agricultural Studies Academy, to help train a new generation of young farmers.

Also, since 2012, Senator Ritchie has helped more than 2,200 people throughout our region meet with employers through her annual job fairs.

To read the New York State Senate Task Force on Workforce Development’s full report, [click here](#).