

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**1/08/2008**

**TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.**  
112 HOLLYWOOD DRIVE  
SUITE #201, BUTLER, PA 16001

**CONTACT:** Fred Fornataro, Executive Director  
724-282-9341, Ext. 11

**Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.**  
**RECEIVES \$541,250 TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS,**  
**PROVIDE WORKERS ADVANCED TRAINING**

**FUNDS AWARDED** – The commonwealth of Pennsylvania has awarded the **Tri-County Workforce Investment Board Inc. \$541,250** to help key industries develop partnerships in which employers and workers will cooperate to collectively improve their competitive position in the marketplace.

Funds will be distributed to the Tri-County's Information Technology, Health Care Partnership and Manufacturing Consortia.

"We are extremely grateful for the 'Investment' into the future growth, stability and Career opportunities for our area," said Jim Ferguson, Human Resources Manger of Penn United Technologies, Inc, Cabot, PA.

Industry partnerships can identify specific training needs and skill gaps, help connect young people to careers, help educational and training institutions arrange curriculum to meet business demands address worker recruitment and retention, develop career ladders within companies, highlight best practices, and promote communication among companies.

"This funding will go a long way to assist our area in promoting manufacturing and dispel the notion of it as a dying industry and assist many in the local workforce to develop skills to further our industry," said Mike Rempel, Executive Vice President, Gorell Windows and Doors, Indiana, PA.

These grants are part of a \$20 million Job Ready PA investment included in the state's 2007-08 budget. Currently, 5,900 Pennsylvania companies participate in more than 86 industry partnerships to increase worker skills and training opportunities that will improve their bottom line competitive advantage.

"The healthcare consortia are extremely grateful to the Commonwealth for once again providing much needed funding for career development in the health care field. Monies will be utilized by all three counties (Indiana, Butler and Armstrong), to provide scholarships for career ladder advancement, educational training, updates and certifications for those working in the field, as well as recruitment and retention initiatives," said Linda Bettinazzi, Executive Director of VNA of Indiana County

Applications and eligibility guidelines for Industry Partnership and Industry Partnership Worker Training Program grants are available online at [www.paworkforce.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us) under the "Governor Rendell's Strategy for Building a Skilled Workforce" quick link.