



## “Knowledge Is Power!” Free Employer Education Seminar Series

CRANSTON—On September 10, the RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) will hold the first of seven workshops that comprise the Fall 2007 “Knowledge Is Power!” Employer Education Series. The workshop series, inaugurated last year in response to business demand, explores employer requirements for such areas as Labor Law, Unemployment Insurance and Occupational Safety. All workshops are held at the RI Department of Labor and Training headquarters at the Pastore Center, 1511 Pontiac Ave., Cranston. Pre-registration is required for all seminars at 1-888-616-JOBS.

“DLT promotes workforce protection and development. Making sure that the employers affected by these laws are aware of them is an important priority for us,” notes Director Adelita S. Orefice. Orefice adds that the workshop format allows employers one-on-one access to departmental experts who can provide in-depth answers to employers’ individual concerns. At most recent count, DLT serves 33,000 private employers across the Ocean State employing nearly 440,000 employees.

The 2007 “Knowledge Is Power!” Employer Education Seminar Series calendar includes the following:

**Labor Laws and Standards** investigates complaints and compliance with state labor laws. Attendees will learn how to maintain adequate wage records, when to pay time and a half, how to determine mandatory employee breaks, how to hire teens and how to fire employees. Employers will understand how to honor legal holidays and properly display workforce information posters.

- Monday, Sept. 10 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Tuesday, Sept. 11 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- Monday, Sept. 24 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Friday, Sept. 28 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Unemployment Insurance (UI)** provides benefits to insured and eligible persons who are out of work through no fault of their own. Attendees will learn who qualifies for benefits, how UI impacts the employer tax rate and what defines “out of work through no fault of their own.” Employers will learn how, when and why UI claims are deemed eligible.

- Wednesday, Sept. 12 9:00 AM – Noon

**Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)** provides benefits to insured RI workers for unemployment caused by illness or disability that is not work-related. Attendees will learn about recent improvements to the TDI System that align the interests of the worker, employer and the medical community.

- Tuesday, Sept. 18 9:00 AM – Noon

**Workforce Regulation/Occupational Safety** enforces mandated health and safety standards for devices such as boilers and elevators; for hazardous substances; and for public buildings and educational facilities. Attendees will discover the proper use, storage and record keeping for hazardous substances. Employers

will learn how they are responsible for the health and safety of their employees, customers and the general public. Also, they will learn about trade license requirements and a mandated 10-hour construction safety program. Lastly, attendees will explore how apprenticeship programs may assure a skilled workforce for the future.

- Wednesday, Sept. 19 9:00 AM – Noon
- Wednesday, Oct. 3 9:00 AM – Noon

**Resources for Ocean State Employers** presents an array of grants and programs available to benefit businesses. The RI Department of Labor and Training has teamed with the Economic Development Corporation to explain Tax Credits, Occupational Wage Levels and Grants for Employee Training.

- Tuesday, Oct. 16 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Tuesday, Dec. 11 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Workers' Compensation (WC)** oversees employer-provided insurance for statutory employee benefits due to a work-related injury or illness. Attendees will learn about the law and procedures regarding insurance coverage, claim reporting/handling and employee return-to-work options. Employers will discover the comprehensive and effective work hardening and physical rehabilitation services available from the Donley Rehabilitation Center.

- Thursday, Oct. 11 8:30 AM – Noon
- Thursday, Nov. 8 8:30 AM – Noon
- Wednesday, Dec. 5 8:30 AM – Noon

One exclusive session targets **medical office staff** so that attendees will learn how to complete Workers' Compensation and/or Temporary Disability Insurance paperwork. Participants will understand RI Workers' Compensation Medical Advisory Board protocols and WC fee schedules. They will also become familiar with the work hardening and physical rehabilitation services available from the Donley Center.

- Thursday, Oct. 18 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

The RI Department of Labor and Training offers employment services, educational services and economic opportunity to both individuals and employers. DLT protects Rhode Island's workforce by enforcing labor laws, prevailing wage rates and workplace health and safety standards. The department also provides temporary income support to unemployed and temporarily disabled workers. For more information on the programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders, please call the RI Department of Labor and Training at (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov). For more information on the DLT Employer Education Series, visit [www.dlt.state.ri.us/EmployerSeminars.htm](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/EmployerSeminars.htm)

-###-

Media Contacts:

**Nicki Romeo**  
Communications Associate  
(401) 462-8744  
[nromeo@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:nromeo@dlt.ri.gov)

**Laura Hart**  
Communications Manager  
(401) 462-8090  
[lhart@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:lhart@dlt.ri.gov)

Marketing and Public Relations Unit  
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training  
Center General Complex  
1511 Pontiac Ave.