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Workforce Board hires new Director of Research

Wyncote resident joins Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board announced today that it hired Meg Shope Koppel, Ph.D. as its Director of Research. Koppel will drive strategic planning for the workforce system in Philadelphia and manage internal and external projects to identify gaps in services for the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board.

"We are very pleased to have Meg join the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board," said Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board CEO Sallie A. Glickman. "Meg's experience and expertise with research and planning will directly benefit our work."

Koppel previously worked for the University of Pennsylvania where she created and taught research and policy curriculum. She also designed organizational and cash flow analyses in an evaluation of a \$2 million per year in social service program that improved targeting of funds and resources. She managed qualitative analyses during an evaluation of a \$1 million per year Philadelphia housing program, which expanded the program to additional sites. Koppel has also done consulting for small agencies since 1998, designing self-evaluation of programs, budgeting, and strategic planning. As an associate at Diana T. Myers & Associates from 2000 through 2006, Koppel provided data analyses expertise on community development including an affordable housing assessment and toolkit for Centre County, PA: the adoption of which led to the Commissioners receiving an Innovation Award from the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. This research made headline news on HUD's website.

"I am very excited to join the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board because of the interesting and important work the organization does for the residents of Philadelphia," said Koppel. "I look forward to making a difference through my research skills, and using that research to drive, sustain and support the work the Board does."

Koppel has experience with the Social Research Corporation in Wyncote, PA, where she designed research of economic market impacts and policy implications of federal initiatives on states. Koppel was an Economic Consultant to Department Revenue for SEPTA, and she worked for The Center for the Conservation of Human Resources at Columbia University, the Institute for Policy Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates. Koppel has had numerous papers and reports published on the subjects of affordable housing and economic change and reform. She is a member of the *American Evaluation Association* and the *Association for Institutional Research*.

Koppel holds a doctorate in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in Economics from Johns Hopkins University, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Temple University. She resides in Wyncote, Cheltenham Township.

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About the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board

Founded in 1999, the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board is a non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board works to align the skills of the region's labor force to meet the needs of industry, ultimately supporting the region's growth and prosperity. The organization's vision is a thriving and inclusive regional economy and its mission is to advocate and advance a demand-driven opportunity agenda that effectively prepares Philadelphians to compete in the economic mainstream. The Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board governs the public workforce system in the city of Philadelphia by guiding public investments in the workforce system and by linking together the resources of the private sector, community organizations, labor groups, educational institutions, and governments providing them with knowledge, vision, and leadership that allows them to be more effective and maximize impacts on the region's economy.

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