

**Berkshire Leadership Program
Workforce Session – Speaker Bios**

Heather Boulger – Berkshire County Regional Employment Board

Heather P. Boulger has served as the Executive Director of the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board for the past 22 years. Under her guidance, the Berkshire REB has become a key player in statewide workforce and economic development efforts. Due to her efforts, in the past 5 years alone, 150+ Berkshire County companies have received more than \$8 million for incumbent worker training, 18,000 students have participated in work based learning opportunities, and more than \$12 million has been generated to develop training programs for healthcare, green/manufacturing, engineering and technology companies.

Ms. Boulger directs programming for public/private sector workforce development board which oversees publicly funded job training and employment programs and economic development throughout Berkshire County. She has designed programs and written grant proposals, raising over \$15 million in new funds. Her responsibilities also include setting policies, establishing benchmarks, and evaluating progress of countywide programs. She has written regional strategic plans, planning documents, progress, and economic development reports.

Ms. Boulger has over 27 years' experience managing & marketing federal employment and training programs in Berkshire County and over 20 years experience with the school-to-work initiative with her involvement in Jobs for Bay State Graduates, Connecting Activities and federal youth programs. Due to her efforts, these programs have received national, state and regional recognition.

Ms. Boulger is currently the Vice Chair of the North Adams School Committee. She serves on the Governor's Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee and the Department of Education Community Service Learning Advisory Committee, and is an active member of the Compact for Education and 1Berkshire.

Heather has a Masters Degree in Education, a Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources, and Program in Negotiation Certificate from Harvard Law School.

Bob Vinson – Division of Employment and Training

Bob Vinson has more than 35 years of experience in the employment, education and training field. During his tenure at the Division of Employment and Training, Bob established and directed the Field Research Department. This new department was charged with providing state and local labor market information for a wide array of professionals involved in job development, placement, program planning and career counseling. Bob's staff included regional economists specializing in providing local labor market information to local job center and economic development staff. Bob was responsible for implementing MASS CIS, the first state sponsored career information system designed to facilitate career planning, career decision making and college choice.

During the last three years of Bob's tenure at DET he was the Career Center and Policy Director, which included implementing the Federal Workforce Investment Act at the state and local level. Bob also had oversight responsibility for all 35 Career Centers chartered by the Commonwealth.

Bob has both an undergraduate and graduate degree in economics from Northeastern University. After leaving DET in August, 2001, Bob founded LMI works. His enthusiasm for labor market and career counseling information is well renowned by his colleagues and clients throughout Massachusetts and New England. Bob and LMI Works specialize in labor market and career information by providing products, services and technical assistance to a wide array of employment, education and workforce development clients. Bob is a frequent speaker and presenter at state, regional and local conferences and workshops.