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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRANT RECIPIENT RECEIVES FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS, PROVIDE
WORKERS ADVANCED TRAINING**

In Support of Governor's Successful, Industry-Driven Workforce Development Strategy

~**Pittsburgh, PA** – The commonwealth of Pennsylvania has awarded regional industry partnerships - through the TRWIB - more than \$1.5 million to help key industries develop partnerships in which employers and workers will cooperate to collectively improve their competitive position in the marketplace.

According to **Ron Painter, Chief Executive Officer, TRWIB:** “Pennsylvania’s industry partnerships help all employers – particularly small and medium-sized businesses - by aggregating workforce training requirements while allowing training providers to meet business needs more efficiently.

Industry partnerships can accomplish a number of workforce development requirements including:

- Identify specific training needs and skill gaps
- Help connect young people to careers
- Help educational and training institutions arrange curriculums to meet business demands
- Address worker recruitment and retention
- Develop career ladders within companies
- Highlight best practices, and
- Promote communication among companies.

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Materials Science IP project manager, **John Werling** described the impact of IPs as “having a multiplier effect on industries in our region by working with coalitions in the most strategic industries. It has a ripple effect for other companies. It’s smart economic development.”

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.

Applications and eligibility guidelines for Industry Partnership and Industry Partnership Worker Training Program grants are available online at www.paworkforce.state.pa.us under the “Governor Rendell’s Strategy for Building a Skilled Workforce” quick link.

TRWIB informs decision-making on regional development to ensure that current and future market needs of businesses and job seekers are met. As a leading knowledge broker on regional workforce trends, needs, and characteristics, TRWIB intelligence helps Southwestern Pennsylvania optimize its greatest asset – the workforce – to attract and retain businesses that result in the region’s economic gain. Additional information is available at: www.trwib.org.

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