ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
HIGH TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL TO WORK GRANT PROGRAM

NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY - FY 2009 APPLICATION

SUMMARY
The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is announcing the release of the Fiscal Year 2009 Request for Application (RFA) for the High Technology School to Work Grant Program. The goal of the High Technology School to Work Program is to improve education and to prepare Illinois’ students to transition from school to high skilled, high paying jobs in the areas of science, mathematics, and advanced technology. Increasing the number of trained students entering technology occupations will help meet the workforce demand of Illinois’ high technology businesses. The High Technology School-to-Work Program (20 ILCS 701/) provides grants to consortia of high technology businesses and local schools. Projects are designed by partnerships among employers, employer associations, and schools to provide youth with work experience in high technology occupations, combined with closely related classroom instruction.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
As a means of ensuring that businesses play a central role in the identification of skill requirements and curricula design, the Department will only accept applications from private sector employers, or employer-based intermediary organizations. Employer-based intermediary organizations include industry associations and chambers of commerce. The application must demonstrate that a strong and cooperative relationship exists between the grantee and the school(s) that represent the educational side of the partnership. The partnership must be employer-led and designed to respond to the high technology skill requirements of participating employers.

ELIGIBLE COSTS & DUE DATE
Grant funds may be used for any reasonable and necessary expense related to the successful completion of the School to Work project. To be an allowable grant cost, expenses must be for extraordinary costs incurred due to the High Technology School-to-Work Program. Grant funds may only be used to pay teachers for the hours worked on the program beyond their normal working hours. The average grant award under the Fiscal Year 2008 High Technology School-to-Work Program was $60,000. The application due date is October 17, 2008.

INFORMATION SESSION
DCEO will host an information session to discuss the grant opportunity on Friday, September 26, 2008. Attendance is not required but is recommended.

September 26, 2008
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Michael A. Bilandic Building
5th Floor Auditorium – Room C500
160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Printed copies of the application are available upon request. Questions pertaining to this program should be directed to John Barr, Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, 100 West Randolph Suite 3-400, Chicago, IL 60601, Telephone: (312) 814-2259 or via e-mail: john.w.barr@illinois.gov.