

Job Creation & Retention Trust

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Ben,
Here is my application and resume is attached. I am applying as a resident. I would like to see two businesses also on this Trust.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

1. Identify which category of public seat you are applying for (local nonprofit, local business, or resident) and describe your interest in participating on this board.
Resident
2. What has been your interaction with the workforce development system, agencies, or nonprofits as a job seeker, employer, professional, or other stakeholder?
I have been a member of the City of Somerville's Workforce Development Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, I was a member of the City's Linkage Committee which created the funding source for the Trust, I am the Chair of the Somerville High School's CTE Advisory Board, I am President/CEO of Bent Electrical Contractors Inc and working with IBEW Local 103 created the partnership between Somerville High School's CTE program and Local 103 that brings in 2 seniors into the local's apprentice program and are employed by us. I have sat on other business advisory boards and committee's in the past.
3. Have you served on a nonprofit board or governmental advisory committee in the past or currently? If so, what is one lesson would you take from that experience to the Job Creation and Retention Trust Board of Trustees?
Yes (see above). It is important to be open to new ideas and ways to connect to the community using technology, social media and other means available that may have not been available in the past.
4. What do you believe is the biggest threat facing the regional labor market in the next 10 years?
The lack of qualified employees, focused training and resources for future job opportunities.
5. What do you believe is the most urgent issue facing job seekers or employers today that the Job Creation and Retention Trust could address?
For employers we are now seeing the lack of qualified employee's in the construction trades, retail, medical and many other employment sectors. This could be a major problem for the economic development of our city and region. For employees the lack of focus training programs, funding and other types of assistance such a day care and housing are issues facing job seekers.

Thanks,
Tom

Thomas Bent
President
Bent Electrical Contractors Inc.

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