

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



March 24, 2008

Dear Parents,

The Somerset County Commissioners invite you to a special presentation on workforce development in Somerset County by Dr. Kenneth Gray, Penn State University Professor of Education, on **Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.** This will take place in the Somerset Area High School Auditorium. Dr. Gray is considered a national expert in the areas of high school career and technical education, post-secondary pre-baccalaureate technical education, and the transition of youth into higher education and the workforce. He is the principal author of the books *Other Ways to Win: Creating Alternatives for High School Graduates* (Corwin Press, 2006) and *Getting Real: Helping Teens Find Their Future* (Corwin Press, 1999).

Developing a qualified workforce – a workforce with the skills and expertise needed for the jobs available in this County – is a four-pronged effort. It takes the cooperation of our education systems, our employers, our County leadership, **and the parents of our students**. This event is the second in a series of presentations and conversations designed to encourage the necessary cooperation.

We have heard resoundingly from the County employers that a fix is needed for the disconnect between education and the fields that need employees. The perception is that Somerset County does not have jobs; the reality is that we do have jobs but a shortage of qualified workers.

As parents you are the primary influence in the decisions our students make. We ask that you encourage your friends and fellow parents to attend Dr. Gray's presentation with you on **April 14 at 7:00 p.m.** The future of our youth and the future of Somerset County depend on it.

Should you have any questions, please contact the County Commissioners' office at 445-1400.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures are stacked vertically. The top signature is in cursive and appears to be 'Kenneth Gray'. The middle signature is 'John P. Vitarone' and the bottom signature is 'J. Mark'. All are written in black ink.

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Kerri R. Burtner'.

Kerri R. Burtner
Comprehensive Plan Coordinator

SCBC/krb