

(East Brunswick, NJ) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today joined Middlesex County Officials and area youth to highlight a summer jobs program funded through the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The program is employing students to work on a variety of projects throughout the county. Holt visited Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, where students are doing maintenance of classrooms and outdoor landscaping in advance of the school year. Middlesex County has received \$884,000 for its summer jobs program. Nationally, there is \$1.2 billion for the program. For New Jersey, there is \$20.8 million, creating an estimated 4,000 jobs.

“In this struggling economy, jobs are hard to come by for everyone, including young adults. We cannot afford to have an entire generation missing out on the many lessons learned from a summer job,” Holt said.

Joining Holt were Jane Brady, Director of Middlesex County Workforce Investment Board; Christopher Rafano, Middlesex Freeholder Deputy Director; and Jeffrey Bicsko, Principal, Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools at East Brunswick. They met with six students hired under the program – two from Sayreville, two from East Brunswick, one from Monroe, and one from South Amboy.

“The Middlesex County Workforce Investment Board and the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders are very pleased to be able to offer summer employment to almost 300 youth through the ARRA funds. These youth will gain invaluable work experience as well as earning money for their needs and even for their families needs in this difficult time,” Brady and Rafano said. “Through positions with local and county governments, as well as some non profits, all the citizens of Middlesex County are benefiting in numerous ways by this summer employment program.”

“This is a smart investment, that provides young New Jerseyans with an opportunity gain valuable work experience and on-the-job training, while earning money throughout the summer,” Holt said. “Our economy will benefit from this in the years to come.”

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