To: Cordelia Twomey

From: Martha Osei-Yaw

Date: July 24, 2014

Subject: US Labor Force Participation Rates by Gender and Educational Attainment in 2010

This graph demonstrates that males participated in the labor force at a higher rate as

compared to their female counterparts in 2010. This data represents the civilian non-

institutional population 25 years old and over according to educational attainment.

(See Illustration 1.)

**Illustration 1.** US LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, men entered the workforce much earlier than women in 2010. The data indicates 59.1% of men entered the labor force without having earned their high school diploma as compared to 33.5% of women that same year. This represents a difference of 25.6%. Furthermore, the number of men that entered the workforce with only a high school degree was 71.4% which was 19% higher than females. The gap between both genders decreased for those entering the workforce with a high school degree and some continuing education.

Based upon these findings, our department would like to explore the research further to assess the determining factors which lead males to enter the workforce at a higher rate than females. We would also like to develop programs and initiatives that would allow high school students earn while they learn. Currently, our team is exploring various science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs that would provide students with the necessary skills and trades to compete in a global market.

Our primary goal is to ensure that 100% of students in the state of New Jersey earn a high school diploma. In a recent study, we learned that some students were more likely to complete their high school degree if provided with opportunities for “hands-on” learning in a non-traditional program.

Given your level of expertise, we would like your assistance in developing grants for STEM initiatives that could be incorporated in various high schools throughout the state of New Jersey. More specifically, we would like to create opportunities for students to learn a trade and take part in apprenticeships throughout the course of their four years in high school. This would be an alternative program for those students that are not currently interested in exploring the traditional college track.

We firmly believe that you would be an asset to our team and hope that you are equally interested in collaborating with us. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to explore if this is an opportunity that is of interest to you.

**References**

Kuiper, S. (2009). *Contemporary Business Report Writing* (4th ed.). Cincinnati, OH: Cengage Learning.

U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012. (online) <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0593.pdf> (Accessed: July 20, 2014).

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment and Earnings Online,” January 2011 issue, March 2011, [www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm) and [www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm)