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Auditor General DePasquale Launches Comprehensive Audit to Determine Effectiveness of State's Workforce Development System

PITTSBURGH – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today announced his department will conduct a performance audit to determine if the state's workforce development system, which reaches across five state agencies, is properly preparing workers for the ever-changing job market.

"I want to make sure we are doing everything possible to have the best trained workers in the world so we can take full advantage of every economic growth opportunity," DePasquale said. "Pennsylvania is competing in an increasingly competitive global economy, and we can only rise to the top by investing in effective, efficient and needs-based workforce development initiatives.

"Pennsylvania has a diverse economy and we need a cohesive and agile system that can adapt to meet the needs of workers and businesses," he said.

The day after being sworn in to his second term as auditor general, DePasquale was in western Pennsylvania to kick off a series of community forums to hear from workers as well as business and education leaders in every region of the state. The final forum will be held in Erie on Oct. 5.

The initial audit objectives are to:

- Evaluate the Department of Labor & Industry's oversight of the interagency coordination within the workforce development system, including the Departments of Education, Community and Economic Development, Human Services, and Aging in accordance with the Workforce Development Act (Act 114 of 2001).
- Determine if the workforce development system has appropriate directives, policies, and procedures to effectively:
 - Identify current and future needs of employers within Pennsylvania.
 - Coordinate educational institutions and employment service programs to meet the needs of employers to enhance Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness.
 - Provide service to assist older and/or displaced workers to update their skill sets to re-enter the workforce.

The audit will cover Jan. 1, 2014 through the end of the audit.

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