



Workforce Development Institute

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ED MURPHY BIO

Ed Murphy, Executive Director of the NYS AFL-CIO's Workforce Development Institute (WDI), has a long history as a leader in public policy, organized labor, economic and workforce development, strategic planning, business consulting and international trade.

Ed's professional life began in the late 1960s as an intelligence agent, fluent in Vietnamese. He returned to America as a Vietnam expert and veterans activist. For more than 35 years Ed has articulated the challenges, mistakes, missed opportunities and options Americans face interacting in a global economy. He has also organized and implemented private and public sector veterans programs; established some of the earliest PTSD programs and served as an advisor to the federal court.

Ed has used his BA in American Studies, two years graduate work in the history of social change and revolution, and a master's in public administration to support his work as a public sector and non-profit executive; consultant to government and international businesses, leadership in organizational development and systems transformation.

As Director of Workforce Planning, at NYS Civil Service, Ed led development of New York's first state workforce plan in 1989, recommending introduction of a Workforce Impact Statement as a required component of public funding. In 1991, Ed left the NYS Department of Economic Development to work on reconciliation with Vietnam, do business consulting and provide humanitarian assistance. He participated in the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)'s 1991 Investors Forum in Ho Chi Minh City and subsequent meetings with government leaders in Hanoi. For 10 years, Ed worked with businesses, NGOs and educational institutions interested in establishing programs in Southeast Asia. Through his alma mater, the College of Staten Island, Ed initiated programs related to and then assisted in development of the City University of New York's establishment of English language training in and educational exchanges with Vietnam.

In 1999, Ed came to work with the NYS AFL-CIO, establishing WDI, a statewide leader in workforce intelligence, education and training of unionized workers. WDI has both statewide and regional operations; provides economic research, community audits, policy analysis and cultural services to working families. Ed was one of the founders of the NYS Apollo Alliance, bringing together organized labor, business, environmental organizations, educators and proponents of environmental justice to address energy concerns.

Ed has served as an op-ed columnist, published a variety of articles in business journals and magazines, has had three (3) photography exhibits sponsored by the NYS Vietnam Memorial, been a technical advisor on one movie and, in addition, was honored by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences “1987-1988 Primetime Emmy Awards...Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam” broadcast by HBO. Ed and his daughter Zoeann, co-authored and shot the photographs for Vietnam, A Father Daughter Journey, published by Philmark Press in 2006.

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