What does the Big Data Alliance Mean for New Jersey?

The New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA) is an unprecedented partnership of the state’s higher education institutions that was established to further build New Jersey’s reputation as a leader in innovation and cutting-edge technology.

“Big Data,” which refers to the massive generation of digital information from sensors, search engines and other sources, has created a tremendous demand for highly skilled, data-savvy employees in both the private and public sectors. In fact, McKinsey projects a significant shortage of data analytics skills in the coming years.¹ Enter the NJBDA. Through the Alliance, New Jersey’s higher education institutions will engage the state’s industry and government to learn where skills and technology gaps exist. NJBDA members will then pool their collective talent and educational resources to develop and offer training workshops and college courses that will ensure that the state’s workforce is prepared for this new era and these new opportunities.

Additionally, the Alliance will build awareness of the specialized advanced computing equipment housed at educational institutions throughout the state, and facilitate the sharing of this equipment across universities, industry and government. It will also construct a publically accessible Big Data Resource Portal that includes links to datasets, online training materials, as well as data infrastructure and data analytics best practices.

Finally, the NJBDA will increase the competitiveness of member institutions for federal funding. This will mean more federal dollars flowing back to New Jersey, which as of 2009 only received $0.78 back for every dollar sent to Washington DC.²

Ultimately, the Alliance will ensure that New Jersey industry and government have access to the tools, technologies and skilled workforce required to take advantage of Big Data opportunities and insights. This access will also bring tangible benefits to New Jersey’s citizens and municipalities in areas such as healthcare and crime prevention. Overall, the NJBDA and the resources it provides, will significantly contribute to the competitiveness and reputation of New Jersey as a major player in the field of Big Data.

Learn more at njbigdata.org

¹ Big data: The next frontier for innovation, competition, and productivity, 2011, accessible at http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/big_data_the_next_frontier_for_innovation
² Northeast-Midwest Institute, Getting To The Bottom Of Federal Spending And Taxation Patterns In The Northeast-Midwest Region, May 2011, pg. 3.