

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

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Happy New Year!

2011 included many significant milestones such as the launch of The WorkPlace's new logo and website...celebrating program graduations for Platform to Employment, Green-Up Bridgeport, and YouthBuild Bridgeport...winning state and federal grants where we provide job training and services for veterans and those individuals looking towards careers in the environmental and healthcare industries....just to name a few. None of these achievements would be possible without the support of our Board of Directors, Community and Business Partners. Thank you for all that you have done. Exceeding the accomplishments of this past year will be challenging but it will make for an exciting journey. Best wishes for the New Year.

Platform to Employment

The WorkPlace developed Platform to Employment (P2E) to address the need for the long term unemployed to return to work and the employer need to recruit skilled workers. The program is a public-private partnership which gives businesses a risk-free opportunity to evaluate and consider hiring participants during an eight-week work experience program.



We are happy to report that three additional P2E classes graduated from the Career Edge program in the months of November and December 2011.

Individuals completing the five-week preparatory program received skills assessment, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs, coaching and more. Then they are matched with open positions at local companies. Placements are made on a trial basis, paid for by The WorkPlace. The expectation is that if the company is satisfied with the performance of the candidate, a full-time job will ensue. To date more than 45% have been placed in Work Experience Programs with several more waiting on job offers. In support of other participants preparing for interviews, we have initiated a P2E job club. Our placement rate exceed the national average where people who have been jobless for more than 12 months, only 1 in 10 have returned to work (Source: U.S. Department of Labor).

Additional support for the program - The WorkPlace received \$100K from Citi Community Development to add financial counseling to Platform to Employment.

Supporting Our Heroes: A Veterans Appreciation and Resource Event



On November 15, 2011 we joined the rest of the nation by celebrating the spirit of Veterans Day in remembering the sacrifices of America's 25 million veterans and expressing our appreciation for their service. More than 100 people were in attendance at the veterans appreciation and resource event held in Bridgeport which highlighted Veterans services.

Many local agencies were on hand providing crucial resources for veterans and their families!

This event was hosted by The WorkPlace, the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut Department of Labor and the Connecticut Department of Labor Veterans' Workforce Development.

Recruitment Begins for the Health CareRx Academy



Looking for a career in healthcare? The Health CareRx Academy is actively recruiting for its program.

Training begins with core competencies such as employability skills and the personal and professional skills required for long-term health career success. Skill training is offered in targeted and in-demand healthcare occupations that are credentialed and will earn

participants a wage sufficient enough to support themselves and their families.

Participants will benefit from services not typically offered in other programs, including mentoring, coaching, internship opportunities (limited) and other supports.

Eligible individuals include those receiving cash assistance from the state of Connecticut or are low income or have been long-term unemployed and reside in the 20 town region The WorkPlace serves.

Info on the Health CareRx Academy and how to apply is available by contacting the Southwestern CTWorks offices in Bridgeport, Stamford, and Derby. You can also get information by calling The WorkPlace at (203) 610-8500.

Add Us In/DiversityWorks Sponsored an Event for Small Business Owners



On December 13, 2011, The WorkPlace & Bijou Theatre hosted a panel discussion: Profit by Investing in a Diverse Workforce. Panel experts discussed the many benefits of hiring people with disabilities including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

Attendees learned how to lower their cost of finding qualified talent, gaining access to new consumer markets, tax credits and accommodating people with disabilities.

One small business owner said, "It was a magical event. Everyone was highly engaged and we learned a lot about the benefits and return on hiring people with disabilities, particularly those who are also in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community."

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*Workforce development highlights from
The WorkPlace*

Editor / *Melanie Blanco*

Contributors / *WorkPlace staff and partners*

If you have a story you'd like to share, call (203) 610-8562.

Visit us online at www.workplace.org

To receive via email, please write to mblanco@workplace.org

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The WorkPlace

Successful Wine Tasting Raises Money and Awareness

On November 30, 2011, The WorkPlace and Diageo hosted a Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser benefitting Dress for Success® Mid-Fairfield County. Over 150 people were in attendance supporting this worthy cause. We are pleased to announce that \$13,000 was raised. Events sponsors included Xerox, Deloitte, Fairfield County Bank, People's United Bank, and Thomson Reuters.



From left to right: Joseph M. Carbone, President & CEO, The WorkPlace, Mayor Richard Moccia, Norwalk, and Mary Kay Caricato, Vice President of Human Resources, Diageo.

Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County is a WorkPlace Opportunity. The program promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Clients are actively engaged in the job search process and participate in the following services offered by Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County:

- *Simply Suited* - professional attire provided for clients. Our signature program that provides women with one suit when they are ready for their job interviews. When they successfully land the job, they return to Dress for Success for a second suit.
- *Professional Women's Group* - an invitation-only job retention and career development program for clients. The Professional Women's Group encourages employment retention and career development by providing participants a safe environment to network with other women, build professional skills, and advance in their careers.
- *CTWorks Career Center* - provides clients with career guidance, technology skills, and job-seeking support, including interview preparation. By utilizing the expert resources of these centers, clients become self sufficient in seeking out resources available to support them in their career development.

For more info, please call 203-333-6505 or visit www.dressforsuccess.org/midfairfieldcounty.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bridgeport Environmental Job Training Program Info Session

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

12:30 - 1:30 pm

3rd Floor Innovation Lab, 350 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

Seating is limited. Info session is by appointment only.

To RSVP, call Paul Weston at (203) 953-3249

Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Resource Clinic

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Norwalk Public Library Full Auditorium, 1 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT

The WorkPlace Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, March 16, 2012

8:15 - 9:30 am

Trumbull Marriott, 180 Hawley Lane, Trumbull, CT

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lauren Kelman at (203) 610-8580.