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YouthWorks Earn and Learn Summer Program Assisting Jobseekers & Employers Alike

The WorkPlace's 2015 YouthWorks Summer Earn & Learn Employment Program provides enriching and constructive summer work experiences through subsidized employment for young people ages 14 to 21. Youth complete a full week of work readiness workshops to ensure they know what is expected in a professional work environment. They are then placed at employer worksites for 20 hours a week for 7 weeks during July and August. The program not only helps youth earn money, but teaches career readiness skills, work ethic and the "soft skills" necessary for success in the workplace. Work experiences also help youth begin to think about longer term career goals.

Summer Earn & Learn is just one of several programs offered through The WorkPlace that provide benefits to the local business community while putting people back to work. Companies that hire through this program receive wage subsidies for the entire 7 weeks of employment. Many employers find this program to be a valuable way to embark upon projects they wouldn't otherwise have time for. The benefits are clear — for youth, it's a way to gain valuable work experience, and for employers it's a no cost, risk-free way to maintain or increase productivity.

Companies that are interested in offering employment, learning more about the Earn & Learn Summer Program or youth wishing to file an application for the program can obtain further information at: www.workplace.org or by contacting Karl Walden at 203-489-5046, or kwalden@workplace.org.



Yolanda Kasinath at Unilever headquarters, Summer Program 2014

The Career Coach : Mobile Services for Jobseekers



The record snowfalls that hit Connecticut this winter did not stop the Career Coach from rolling. The "career center on wheels" and mobile classroom delivers no cost services to jobseekers in Southwestern Connecticut who are unable to get the services at the regional American Job Centers due to lack of transportation, lack of childcare, or employment schedules. Despite the harsh winter weather, close to 200 customers were served at 21 locations in January and February alone. The 38-foot vehicle is ADA-compliant and features state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment, bilingual staff (Spanish/English), and instructors who are expert in delivering the essential information and training necessary to today's jobseekers. The Coach has a regular schedule of locations and is also available for rent by companies that wish to host their own events. For more information, visit: <http://www.ajcswct.com/CareerCoach> or call (203) 333-5129 ext. 336.

Homeowners Receive Assistance at the Mortgage Crisis Resource Clinic

The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program (MCJTP) organized a Resource Clinic on March 12th for Connecticut residents who are facing foreclosure or struggling to pay their mortgage. Among the many agencies that were on hand to provide one-on-one counseling and referrals were Connecticut Judicial Services; Neighborhood Housing Services from Bridgeport, Waterbury and New Haven; The Connecticut Fair Housing Center; and TEAM, Inc. Individuals received information about mediation, personal finance and tax preparation, housing services, career training and job search, all designed to help them navigate the challenges that arise when faced with financial hardship. To learn more about the program call: 1-866-683-1682.

Platform to Employment Launches Fourth Round of Statewide Classes



The first of five statewide Platform to Employment (P2E) classes began earlier this month with an orientation session for the Bridgeport group. Participants will attend classes for the next five weeks focusing on lasting performance improvements through a curriculum of self-assessment, managing change, effective communication and successful job search strategies. P2E is accepting applications for classes that will begin in New Haven on March 30th, in Hartford on March 31st, Waterbury on April 1st and Norwich on April 6th. Anyone wishing to apply for these other locations should visit: www.platformtoemployment.com.



“Toast to Success” Fundraiser to Benefit Dress for Success® Mid-Fairfield County

On Tuesday, May 19th, Dress for Success of Mid-Fairfield County presents **Toast to Success!** at The Westport Arts Center, 5:30-7:30 pm. The event will include fine art and fashion, recognition and awards, silent auction and raffle, light appetizers, a selection of fine wines, music from Thom Adams of What Up Funk!, and of course, a champagne **Toast to Success!** This annual event helps to raise the awareness and funds necessary to ensure Dress For Success continues helping women throughout the region. No other program in Fairfield County provides professional clothing at no cost for women entering the workforce. We hope you'll join us in helping to make every Dress for Success client a success story. For ticket reservations call 203-610-8570 or click here: midfairfieldcounty.dressforsuccess.org/news/.

Save the Date
May 19, 2015



Toast to Success
benefiting  **DRESS FOR SUCCESS®**
MID-FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

*Workforce development highlights from
The WorkPlace*

Editors / *Melanie Blanco and Joann Coviello*
Contributors / *WorkPlace staff and partners*

If you have a story you'd like to share, call (203) 610-8496.

Visit us online at www.workplace.org

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

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The WorkPlace

Upcoming Events

Community Forum: “Workforce Trends in Today’s Economy”

May 7th, 8:15am, Sacred Heart University/Stamford

May 14, 8:15am, Housatonic Community College

P2E Cohort 4 Graduation Ceremony

Tuesday, May 12th, 9am at the Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury

Dress For Success Annual Fundraiser, “Toast to Success”

Tuesday, May 19th, 5:30-7:30pm at the Westport Arts Center.

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 19th, 8:15-9:30am at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lauren at 203-610-8580.

2015 Annual Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, June 23rd, 6pm at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre, Bridgeport