

An Evening of Celebration: The WorkPlace Annual Awards Ceremony

High spirits dominated the atmosphere as over 150 people gathered at Bridgeport's Downtown Cabaret Theatre on the evening of June 23rd to celebrate the achievements of the individuals and organizations that participated in Southwest Connecticut's workforce system this past year. The WorkPlace Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes people whose life accomplishments may go unrecognized as well as the employers, volunteers and professionals who work with them. In her keynote address, State Senator Marilyn Moore defined that dynamic as "collective impact", the result of people and systems coming together to successfully face challenges and resolve problems. After the recipients were given their awards, WorkPlace President and CEO Joe Carbone gave out two special awards. The President's Award went to The National Employment Law Project (NELP) for the work it does fighting for policies to create good jobs, expand access to work and for its support of the long-term unemployed; and the TD Charitable Foundation for financially supporting programs that promote economic empowerment, youth development and community involvement.



EnvironmentalWorks Program: Building for the Future



The outlook for construction industry jobs has been steadily improving, and according to Dodge Data and Analytics, construction expansion has become more broad-based in 2015, with support coming from more sectors than was often the case in recent years. This is good news for students enrolled in The WorkPlace's EnvironmentalWorks program where they receive trade-specific instruction and remediation training for environmentally sensitive construction jobs. Some of the credentials students in the program receive are certification in OSHA 30, Hazwoper 40, and initial licensure status as Lead Abatement Supervisor and EPA Renovator. Pictured at left are some of the students from the most recent class to go through the program. Students were invited to The WorkPlace's Board of Directors meeting in June where they were presented with their certificates. For more information on the program contact Nicole Solomon, 203-610-8566 or nsolomon@workplace.org.

WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting

At its final meeting of the 2015 fiscal year, WorkPlace President & CEO Joe Carbone delivered an exciting President's Report to a room that was filled to capacity. In spite of a sluggish statewide economic recovery, Carbone cited impressive strides that The WorkPlace has made over the past year in fulfilling its mission, among them: a 9.2% increase in funding over the past 12 months; expansion of the Platform to Employment program statewide and into 4 more locations nationally; adapting the P2E model for other segments of the unemployed population; and a list of impressive accomplishments made by several other WorkPlace programs. Guest speaker Scott Jensen, Director of Rhode Island's Department of Labor and Training talked about the changing nature of work, the challenges that workforce development agencies have closing the skills gap and providing employers with the talent they need. He praised programs such as Platform to Employment which is currently under consideration for replication in his state.



Platform to Employment Graduate Pays it Forward



P2E graduates Eric Benitez and Kris Fatsy

Kris Fatsy graduated the Platform to Employment (P2E) program at the end of 2014 with the first statewide class. Early in 2015, P2E introduced her to Creative Video Corporation (CVC), an award winning, full-service video production agency in Norwalk, CT where she was subsequently hired as Account Executive and Production Manager. When the company decided to expand its staff by hiring a dedicated sales manager, Kris suggested that the search start with a call to P2E. The idea was enthusiastically supported by CVC's President and Owner, Francisca Bogdan. P2E recommended Eric Benitez, who has more than 10 years experience in the video production industry. Eric was interviewed, given a job offer, and joined the team on May 26th. "After learning so much from the P2E program, I was thrilled on a personal level to have the chance to pay it forward," said Kris. "As a corporation, CVC knows that communities are strengthened by a strong workforce and they are happy to do their part."

For program information: www.platformtoemployment.com

The WorkPlace Wins CQIA Innovation Prize

The WorkPlace was honored with a Silver Innovation award at the annual ceremony of the Connecticut Quality Improvement Awards. CQIA recognized the forward-thinking approach The WorkPlace took to incorporate Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County (DFS Mid-Fairfield County) operations in downtown Bridgeport with the American Job Center. We have created a streamlined process that enables DFS Mid-Fairfield County clients to obtain the career counseling and job training they need and have easy access to the essential supports provided by DFS Mid-Fairfield County. By aligning programs, clients are better positioned to compete for jobs and present themselves to employers. DFS Mid-Fairfield County thanks the sponsors of the recent fundraising event for their financial support: Aquarion Water Company; Frontier Communications; Xerox; The Hour Publishing Company; BIC; MPI; People's United Bank; Deloitte (Stamford); and Straight Talk PR. Contributions from corporations and individual donors are essential to the DFS Mid-Fairfield County program. Donate: <https://midfairfieldcounty.dressforsuccess.org/get-involved/donate/>.



Health Career Academy Students Receive CPR Training

Healthcare and Life Sciences represent a fast-growing sector for job seekers throughout the state. The WorkPlace's Health CareerRx Academy (HCA) is a four-year program that provides occupational training, work readiness, and other supports to individuals who wish to start or advance their career in the healthcare field. As part of the required curriculum, HCA students must become certified in basic life saving techniques. Working with CPRed, an American Heart Association authorized provider of first aid education, students receive real time practice and gain the knowledge and confidence to respond to a medical emergency. For information: 203-930-1637 or www.workplace.org.



Rebecca Rabinowitz, Instructor from CPRed at the Health CareerRx Academy

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

Workforce development highlights from The WorkPlace

Editors / Joann Coviello and *Melanie Blanco* Visit us online at www.workplace.org

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The WorkPlace

Upcoming Events

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 18th, 8:15-9:30am at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn.
All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lauren at 203-610-8580.

Veteran's Day Event

Sunday, November 1st, 12 noon-3:00 p.m.
Port 5 Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster St., Bridgeport