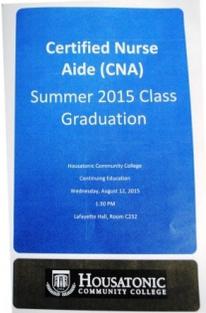


Graduation Celebration for Health Career Academy Students



Health Care Academy graduate *Maria Sanchez*

Ten students from the Health Career Academy (HCA) completed their Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training this summer and took part in the graduation ceremony held at Housatonic Community College. The program is held five days a week for a six week period, and the pride the students took in their accomplishment was evident. Nursing assistants work in a wide variety of settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, adult day care centers, private homes and assisted living facilities. They fulfill basic quality-of-life needs through their daily contact with those in their care and are a vital link in communicating a patient's needs to the other healthcare providers they work with. At the end of August, students will be required to pass the CNA licensing exam before moving on to employment and not surprisingly, many of them expressed their intention of enrolling in the Patient Care Technician program, a 14-week evening program that will run from September to December. For information: (203) 930-1637.



Summer Youth Earn & Learn Program Provides Valuable Work Experience



Jalenathan Feliciano (l) and Jaelon King on the job at The Webster Bank Arena

Over 400 youth from southwest Connecticut took part in YouthWork's Summer Earn & Learn program where they were given the opportunity to earn wages during summer vacation and gain valuable work experience that might not have been available to them otherwise. The Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport has used Earn & Learn for three consecutive summers, and in July/August worked with four youth from the program. In the words of Shane Beardsley, VP of Arena Operations, "we use the internships as a prelude to permanent hiring as the quality of their work has been consistently good". Over at the Bridgeport Board of Education, Tim Grasty, the Superintendent's Administrative Aide, supervised two Earn & Learn workers. Grasty himself was introduced to the job at BOE through the Earn & Learn program and was offered a full time position at the end of his two-month internship there. That was five years ago, and he hasn't looked back since. In addition to the obvious benefits of a paycheck and experience, youth gain aspirations and focus for their future. Several participants are looking forward to next summer's opportunities while others are already planning for college and beyond. For more information about YouthWorks call 203-416-8487 or visit www.workplace.org.



Savannah Cummings (l) and Deneela Daye (r) with supervisor Tim Grasty at Bridgeport BOE.

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

We would like to thank the following organizations for their recent donations and generous support of The WorkPlace programs: First County Bank, Westport Branch; United Illuminating Corporation; Webster Bank; Katherine Matthies Foundation; and YWL (Young Women's League) of New Canaan. With their help, The WorkPlace will continue to provide first-rate services for the many Connecticut jobseekers that have come to rely on us to help them get back into the workforce. If you or your organization would like to donate to any of our programs contact Bernadette Deamico at 203-610-8564 or bdeamico@workplace.org.

Spotlight On: Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program



Colleen Douglas was working full time when her company was bought by a larger healthcare company in January 2015. Her husband was already out of work due to an injury and only collecting disability benefits. While some staff at Colleen's company were transferred amid the downsizing transition, Colleen's contract was not renegotiated. She began collecting unemployment benefits, but it became increasingly difficult for her and her husband to meet the mortgage obligation on their home in Beacon Falls. They sought assistance from Bridgeport's Judicial Mediation Program who then referred Colleen to the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program (MCJTP). In March 2015, she began working with MCJTP Program Specialist Desiree Brooks who arranged a scholarship for her to receive training through a partner program, Business Access. The scholarship made it possible for Colleen to take online courses to bring her skills up to speed and compete in the job market. After Colleen completed training, she received help with job search strategies and interviewing skills. Just as Colleen was in the last week of eligibility for unemployment benefits, she was offered a Sales Associate position with Watermark Retirement Communities in Southbury, CT. For information about MCJTP call 1-866-683-1682 or visit www.workplace.org.

P2E Program Accepting Applications

*WorkPlace COO
Adrienne
Parkmond at the
Platform to
Employment
Program
orientation in
Bridgeport*



Platform to Employment (P2E) is specially designed to help those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits break the cycle of joblessness and get back to work. A trained team of professionals works in a classroom setting and in one-on-one sessions to help each individual regain confidence and obtain the tools necessary to compete in today's job market. Classes for the statewide program take place in Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, Hartford, and North Franklin. Orientation sessions for each location are staggered beginning in September, October, or November depending upon the location. To learn more about this nationally acclaimed program call 203-610-8492. To obtain a program application visit: <http://p2eapplication.com/p2e>.

P2E Class Schedule

Hartford: October 26th
New Haven: October 28th
Bridgeport: November 2nd
Waterbury: November 9th
North Franklin: November 16th
Bridgeport: November 30th

WorkPlace Awarded for Community Leadership

For the 3rd consecutive year The WorkPlace participated in Bridgeport's Project Homeless Connect, which took place on August 4th. The Project is a regional alliance to prevent and end homelessness. This year, organizers recognized The WorkPlace for its continued support of this worthwhile and essential service. Project Homeless Connect provides access to an array of social services all in one place on one day and at no cost. Some of the many services offered include medical screenings; mental health and addiction counseling; employment referrals and job training services; social services benefits screenings; and foreclosure intervention services. The event is sponsored by The Greater Bridgeport Continuum of Care, Opening Doors of Fairfield County, and the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County.

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

*Workforce development highlights from
The WorkPlace*

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

Contributors / WorkPlace staff and partners To receive via email, please write to mblanco@workplace.org

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

**The
WorkPlace**

Upcoming Events

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting

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

Veteran's Day Awards Event: "Service to Country & Community"

**Guest Speaker: Sean Connolly, Commissioner,
State of Connecticut Department of Veteran's Affairs**

Sunday, November 1st, 12 noon-2:30 p.m.
Port 5 Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster St., Bridgeport