

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

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SUPPORTING TOAST FOR SUCCESS

Join Us & Support Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County



TALBOTS



On Wednesday, May 18th, 2016, Dress for Success of Mid-Fairfield County presents its annual fundraiser, *Toast to Success!* at The Westport Inn. The event will include a fashion show courtesy of Talbots and Darien Sport Shop, wine tasting courtesy of BevMax, silent auction and raffle, and recognition awards. The evening begins at 5:30pm.

You're Invited to Toast to Success



We are excited to have Kylee Knoles of News 12 joining us again, as well as Caitlin Nuclio and John Craven. Beth Foster, host of WEBE108 Morning show, Jocelyn Maminta of WTNH and Senator Tony Hwang will also be walking in the fashion show. The evening's host is DJ Brian Smith and Thom Adams of What Up Funk! will be back to provide music and entertainment for the evening.

Tickets may be purchased at <http://bit.ly/Toast2Success2016> or by calling 203-610-8570.

Platform to Employment Holds Statewide Graduation

This month, Platform to Employment (P2E) participants from across Connecticut gathered in Shelton to celebrate the completion of a preparatory program that will lead them back to work. 64% of the program's participants found employment prior to graduation. "Words can't express how truly proud and extremely grateful I am to have been a real-life success story in the Platform to Employment (P2E) program," said graduate Courtney Bowser of Waterbury. "On the first day, I entered the program exasperated at my future job prospects. On the last day, I exited the program energized and enthusiastic. And...employed!"

Graduate Audra Cyr of Manchester entered the program after being laid-off due to a company merger. As part of the P2E program, Audra began work with U.S. Residential Group and was hired full-time after two weeks. Audra said, "After being downsized by my last employer of 20 plus years, I found myself in a rough situation. If not for Platform to Employment, I most likely would still be unemployed. Thank you to all the instructors and sponsors of this program. It works!"

Special thanks to State Representatives Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Chris Perone, and Evan Johnson, from the office of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy were able to join the ceremony as guest speakers.

To learn more about the Platform to Employment program, call 203-610-8492 or visit the website at www.platformtoemployment.com.



Financial Empowerment Train-the-Trainer Workshop Offered at The WorkPlace



The WorkPlace was the sole organization in Connecticut selected by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to offer the *Your Money, Your Goals (YMYG)* train-the-trainer workshop this year. Over 30 representatives from community colleges, service providers, state agencies, and The WorkPlace staff gathered on May 11th for the financial empowerment training.

The *YMYG* training is designed to help frontline staff as they work with participants on a variety of financial issues. The toolkit is a collection of important financial empowerment information and tools to help people keep track of income and bills, make wise spending decisions, order and fix credit reports, and repay debts.

"This training trains people who then feel empowered to go back and train others within their organization," said Rita Bowen, *YMYG* master trainer. "We use this method as a way to keep spreading accurate and unbiased knowledge about solving financial issues."

The WorkPlace will utilize aspects of *YMYG* with participants, tailoring it's modules and tools to the unique needs and goals of each person.



YouthWorks Earn and Learn Program Seeking Summer Worksites

The YouthWorks 2016 Earn and Learn Summer Youth Employment Program provides a diverse career exploration experience for low-income youth ages 16 to 21. Earn and Learn participants complete a workplace readiness training and preparatory classes to ensure they know what is expected in professional work environments. They are then placed at employer worksites for 20 hours a week for seven weeks during July and August. The program offers an opportunity for youth to earn wages during summer vacation while gaining valuable work experience and exploring different occupational paths.

Hosting YouthWorks participants comes at no cost to employers. YouthWorks provides wage subsidies for the entirety of the seven week program. Past business partners have found the program to be a valuable way to embark upon projects they otherwise wouldn't have time for, and a way to help develop the next generation of workers.

YouthWorks is currently seeking companies interested in offering employment. Past worksite's have included law offices, hospitals, manufacturing plants, small businesses, government agencies, and non-profits. To learn more, please contact Elliott Abbots at 203-416-8489 or eabbotts@workplace.org.



Visit Us



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Upcoming Events

Toast to Success Fundraiser
Wednesday, May 18
The Westport Inn
<http://bit.ly/Toast2Success2016>

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, June 17th
Housatonic Community College, Beacon Hall

2016 Awards Ceremony
Thursday, June 23rd
Downtown Cabaret Theatre, Bridgeport, CT