

# The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

October, 2016

## Re-Entry Program Begins at Niantic Correctional Institute



The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded The WorkPlace a \$500,000 grant to provide pre- and post-release services to women at the York Correctional Institute, Connecticut's only institution for female offenders.

The Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release Program (LEAP) will establish an on-site American Job Center (AJC) to provide 125 Connecticut women with gender focused intensive workforce development training. The training will prepare participants for employment and provide them with other necessary supports upon release.

The LEAP program will utilize the Women Offender Case Management Model (WOCMM), a comprehensive service that was developed exclusively for women in the criminal justice system. The WOCMM model recognizes that incarcerated women often face different challenges than men upon release. Working on the premise that all women have strengths and resources that can be mobilized to address challenges and mediate risk, American Job Center case managers will work closely with female offenders to address vocational, family/social, personal, and life needs.

## Health Career Academy's *Healthier You Resource Fair*

A colorful poster for the 'HEALTHIER YOU' 2016 Resource Fair. It features a family of four (mother, father, and two children) smiling, surrounded by balloons. Text on the poster includes: 'You're Invited', 'FREE Admission &amp; Parking', 'HEALTHIER YOU 2016 RESOURCE FAIR', 'Brought to you by the Health Career Academy', 'Saturday October 29, 2016', '11:00am-3:00pm', 'Cesar Batalla School', '606 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport', and a list of activities: Health Screenings, Wellness Programs, Food &amp; Nutrition, Fitness Tips, Health Providers, Children's Activities, and And More!.

Join the Health Career Academy on Saturday, October 29 from 11am-3pm for the *Healthier You Resource Fair!* In an effort to increase health awareness and disease prevention for residents of Southwest Connecticut, the Health Career Academy is bringing together medical care providers, social services, community resources and holistic care providers to provide and promote their services to the community. The event will take place at Cesar Batalla School in Bridgeport, CT.

The event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome! For more information or to become a vendor, contact Sarah Lewis at [slewis@workplace.org](mailto:slewis@workplace.org) or 203-610-8469.

## Announcing the Southwestern Connecticut Retail Career Academy

The WorkPlace is excited to announce the establishment of the Southwestern Connecticut Retail Career Academy! With current labor market projections indicating a high demand in coming years for retail and retail related occupations, this new initiative is designed to revolutionize the retail industry by presenting viable career paths to job seekers and a complete solution for industry training and job placement. The initiative is made possible by funding from the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership through the Walmart Foundation.

"Retail is a dynamic industry that is constantly changing," said Program Manager Michael Stokes. "These days, retail is so much more than standing behind a cash register. At the Retail Career Academy, we want our students to think beyond a job, and work towards a career".

Following the model of the highly successful Health Career Academy, the Retail Career Academy will provide comprehensive hands-on training, case management, job search assistance, National Retail Federation certification and support services for 300 unemployed or underemployed individuals.



## YouthWorks Summer Work Experience



Over 400 youth participated in YouthWork's Summer Earn and Learn Employment Program at worksites throughout Southwestern Connecticut. After completing an intensive week-long job readiness course, participants were placed in jobs at government and non-profit agencies, corporations, hospitals, retail stores, summer camps and sports arenas. The work experience was, for many participants, their first meaningful paid employment experience.



Participant Stephieluv Desir spent the summer working for I Luv BPT, a marketing consultant group that hosts several popular community engagement events in Bridgeport, such as the Downtown Thursday Concert Series. "Thanks to YouthWorks, I had an amazing summer," said Stephieluv. "Working with I Luv BPT opened my eyes to how much young people can accomplish if we work in a team. I realized that if we want to make a difference in our city, it has to start with us. YouthWorks does an amazing job shaping our lives and opening our eyes to different experiences that await us."



Thank you to all the amazing local employers who provided a structured work experience for summer YouthWorks participants!



### Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant



A recent regional needs assessment conducted by The WorkPlace found that several health care occupations, including nursing, pharmacy technicians, surgical technicians, dental assistants, and patient care technicians are expected to

experience shortages or be in high demand in The WorkPlace's service area. Through a new Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant (NEG), The WorkPlace will provide career enhancement and training opportunities to help dislocated workers get a job in the healthcare industry. Dislocated workers include individuals who have been laid off, are receiving unemployment insurance or have exhausted benefits, or are certified as a dislocated worker.

NEG's goal is to place 65 dislocated workers within the healthcare sector to assist in preventing a shortage of health personnel in the region. For more information, contact Dee at 203-610-6556.

### Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Success Story

Brenda B. had not held a steady job in four years and was babysitting to try to make ends meet. She was behind on her mortgage and at risk of losing her home when she made an appointment with a Program Specialist at the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program. Brenda discussed her background in

#### **MORTGAGE CRISIS JOB TRAINING PROGRAM**

health care and her interest in getting back into patient care with one of MCJTP's case managers. After the conversation, Brenda

decided to pursue becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Brenda completed the training and passed the State of Connecticut CNA license exam. She is now working as a CNA, which enabled her to modify her loan, and keep her family in their home.

The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program is for Connecticut residents who are 60 days or more past due on their mortgage with a household income of less than \$120,000. For more information, call 1-866-683-1682.

### Visit Us

**The WorkPlace**

350 Fairfield Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: (203)-610-8500  
Email: info2@workplace.org  
Web: www.workplace.org

**americanjobcenter**

Locations:  
Bridgeport Ansonia  
Derby Stamford  
Phone: 1-866-859-8818  
Web: www.ajcswct.com

### Upcoming Events

**Healthier You Resource Fair**  
October 29, 2016, Cesar A. Batalla School, Bridgeport, 11am-3pm

**Service to Country and Community Awards**  
November 9, 2016, Port 5 Naval Veterans, Bridgeport, 5:30pm

**The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting**  
December 16, 2016, Housatonic Community College, Beacon Hall, Bridgeport, 8:15am