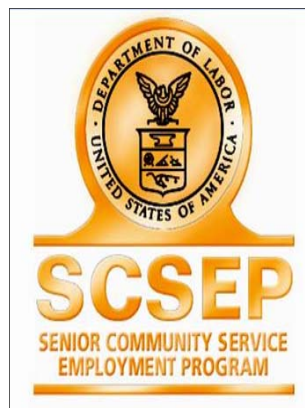


The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

November, 2016

The WorkPlace Elevated to Status of National Operator



The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded The WorkPlace \$5.1 million to administer job training and employment services to low-income unemployed seniors over 55 years of age. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) will provide job skills training through community service placements at non-profits and municipalities. In addition, participants will be offered continuing education opportunities such as computer skills training, assistance with transportation arrangements, financial counseling, resume preparation, job search assistance, and more.

"We are extremely pleased to be selected to provide this very important program that will expand opportunities for older, low-income adults to achieve economic self-sufficiency," said Joseph Carbone, President and CEO of The WorkPlace.

The program will serve 1,268 people in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania. To qualify, participants must be currently unemployed and have an annual family income no higher than 125 percent of federal poverty income guidelines.

You're Invited: December Board of Director's Meeting

The WorkPlace's December Board of Directors' Meeting will feature a special presentation highlighting the impact that our 2016 workforce development initiatives have had on residents of southwestern Connecticut.



Elected officials, business partners, community leaders and interested residents are invited to attend the meeting, which will take place on Friday, December 16th at Housatonic Community College from 8:00am to 9:30am. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Alisha at 203-610-8570 or aellis@workplace.org.

Retail Career Academy Graduates First Class, 78% Now Employed



The WorkPlace's newly established Retail Career Academy is excited to announce the graduation of its first class. Of the nineteen participants who completed the five week program, 78% are now employed in the retail sector in positions including customer service, administration, inventory, logistics and sales.

Participants enrolled in the program started by completing an individual employment plan, which tracked their short and long term employment goals. The National Retail Federation (NRF) Certification training is administered by the Connecticut Retail Merchant Association, and prepares participants

for the NRF Exam. Participants then worked with program staff to create a resume, practice interview skills, and receive job search coaching. "The Retail Career Academy is not just another program offering a credential," said participant Athena Phipps. "It's designed to assist us in finding our own career path." Those interested in learning more about enrolling in the Retail Career Academy, or employers who are looking for qualified retail workers should contact Jean Berry at 203-290-1947.



Satellite American Job Centers: A Resource for Job Seekers & Employers



The American Job Center's located in Derby, Ansonia, and Stamford offers valuable workshops to job seekers interested in continuing their education. Beginning January 1st, workshops will include *Microsoft Digital Literacy* and *Linked In*. The workshops are offered at no cost, but registration is required. Connecticut's American Job Center's (AJC) are one-stop resource centers complete with job search information, training, skill development and placement assistance. Employers can access a number of no cost services including posting of employment opportunities on job boards, referrals of qualified job candidates, and labor market information. To register for a workshop, call 203-734-3443.

Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Success Story



A single mother of two teenagers, Linda Redmond Bourie's work in the real-estate field was not sustaining the financial needs of her family. Issues with her mortgage lender during the nation's foreclosure crisis proved daunting, and she found herself behind on her mortgage payments. In June of 2016, she was referred to The WorkPlace by the Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut and began working with Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program Specialist Desiree Brooks.

Linda worked hard to overcome a family crisis involving the illness of one of her children. She attended UCONN Citi with her MCJTP scholarship, where she completed Microsoft Office Suite and QuickBooks training in August. After several temporary assignments and sales consulting opportunities, Linda was offered a full time sales position with *World's Finest Chocolate*, a nationally recognized family owned fundraising company that has been consistently named in The Chicago Tribune's "Top 100 Workplaces".

Linda traveled to the *World's Finest Chocolate* world headquarters in Chicago where she received valuable company training, and has since been very busy making sales and getting back on her feet. She continues to work with the CT Judicial Housing Mediation Program to modify her loan, and her new income will keep her on track so that she and her family remain in their home.

YouthWorks Success Story

Miguel Perez desperately wanted to work, but had a hard time getting hired with no prior work experience. He enrolled in the YouthWorks Summer Earn and Learn Program and completed his customer service training at Goodwill Industries. When Miguel enrolled again the following summer, he was noticed for his interest and talent with computers. He was referred to Bridgeport Youth Area Ministry, Inc. (BAYM), a program that trains youth in software programs, hardware repair, and employment skills. After a short time, was taught how to build computers. Miguel excelled in this role, and participated in the first Platform to Employment Youth Program. Miguel was then hired full time by BAYM.



Miguel is now a sales/customer service representative and assistant technician. "I essentially run the front of the store. I manage our Facebook page, and other marketing websites. I greet and assist every customer that walks through the door in a courteous and professional manner, while attempting to help them in the most efficient way I can. My friendly and professional demeanor has created a number of customers who now ask for me directly because they know that I will give them the best service possible. I have gained a great rapport with almost every customer I interact with. That's a very large part of why I love my job."

Health Career Academy Hosts Community Health Fair

The Southwestern Connecticut Health Career Academy (HCA) welcomed members of the community to the "2016 Healthier You Resource Fair" on October 31st at Cesar Batalla Elementary School in Bridgeport. "The event was staffed in part by HCA graduates who are now working as direct care providers in the community," said HCA Director Ashley McGuffie. "We wanted to give back to the community by providing resources for children and families to focus on the importance of physical, mental, and nutritional health." Attendees enjoyed health and wellness information from over 35 vendors, children's activities, fitness classes, cooking demonstrations and health screenings.



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

Platform to Employment Graduation
December 8, 2016
Mattatuck Museum, 10am

The WorkPlace's December Board of Directors' Meeting
December 16, 2016
Housatonic Community College, Event Center, Beacon Hall, 8am