

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

March, 2017

The WorkPlace Selected to Operate Rhode Island One-Stop Career Center



The WorkPlace has been selected by the Providence/Cranston Workforce Development Board to operate the one-stop career center located at One Reservoir Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island. The Providence one-stop is part of Rhode Island's netWORKri system. Starting July 1st, 2017, The WorkPlace will assume management responsibilities for the Providence/Cranston location. As operator, The WorkPlace will coordinate with community partners to ensure that jobseekers receive the highest quality training expected from a one-stop experience. Service delivery will be molded using a customer-centered design, which ensures customer satisfaction by constantly evolving to improve procedures based on customer feedback.

The one-stop will also coordinate the delivery of services to employers to recruit employees and provide employers with the tools need to grow their business. The same human centered design model will be used with employers to collect feedback from the business community and help inform the one-stop's programming and service delivery.

The WorkPlace currently oversees the operation of four American Job Center one-stop's located in Bridgeport, Derby, Stamford, and Ansonia, Connecticut as well as a mobile Career Coach.

HCC Hosts Regional Workforce Summit

A Regional Workforce Summit will be held at Housatonic Community College (HCC) on April 21 to develop strategies to enhance the effectiveness of workforce programming in southwestern Connecticut. The Summit will engage educators, employers, philanthropic foundations, industry, school districts, civic organizations and local government to address the common skills that employers require to operate and grow their business, and that individuals need to be successful.

"This workforce summit will provide valuable insights that will help us ensure that we continue to respond to workforce needs and prepare individuals to compete in the regional and global economy," said HCC President, Dr. Paul Broadie. The summit will include keynote remarks from Joe Carbone, President and CEO of The WorkPlace, sector breakout sessions, and a panel featuring representatives from Sikorsky, Yale New Haven Health, and Key Bank. The sector focused break out session will focus on manufacturing, healthcare, education, information technology, business and green technology.

Like other communities across the nation, the southwest Connecticut region needs new strategies to expand career pathways and help workers — especially low-income workers in low-skilled jobs — get the training and education they need to succeed in the labor market.

The Regional Workforce Summit will run from 8am to 12pm at the Beacon Hall Events Center located at 900 Lafayette Boulevard in Bridgeport. Registration is available online on the Housatonic Community College website.



YouthWorks Summer Earn and Learn Program Seeking Summer Worksites

YouthWorks is seeking employers in southwest Connecticut to provide summer worksites for youth participants of the Summer Earn and Learn program, which provides diverse career exploration experiences for low-income youth ages 16 to 21. The program provides workplace readiness training prior to summer work experiences at worksites for 20 hours a week during July and August. This is an opportunity for youth to earn wages during summer vacation, hone workforce skills, and receive valuable experience while exploring various occupational paths. "I am always amazed at the skills youth develop during their internship experience," said Furahi Achebe, Producer at Fitting Room TV. "By the end of the program they had mastered the use of a professional quality camera and created and edited career awareness videos that include interviews with professionals."



Hosting YouthWorks participants comes at no cost to employers, as 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. To learn more about having a YouthWorks participant support your business, contact Ray at 203-290-1947 at extension 7947.

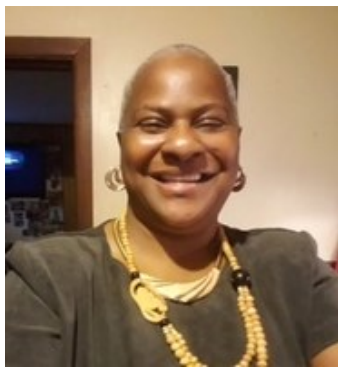
Stamford Businesses Support Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County

Two Stamford area businesses have recently announced initiatives to support Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County (DFSMFC) in their mission of empowering women to become economically independent. Recently, Stamford-based global ecommerce company Pitney Bowes awarded Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County with a \$10,000 grant to support DFSMFC's Simply Suited and Professional Women's Group programs.



On International Women's Day, the Loft Salon and Spa at 1051 Long Ridge Road announced they will serve as a donation drop-off location for clothing and accessories to benefit the program. The Stamford location will enable women in lower Fairfield County to easily donate their gently used professional clothing helping low-income women thrive at work. "The Loft Salon and Spa's mission is to empower women to feel beautiful. Therefore, we can really support Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County's needs," said Stephanie Becker, owner of the salon. "Aligning with local causes where we can truly help make a difference is important to us." The Women's Day event also raised \$200 to purchase plus-size items that are often in need.

Success Story Health CareRx Academy



After working as a home companion to the elderly for nearly ten years, Paulette Bush decided to pursue a career in Phlebotomy with hopes of increasing her earning potential. A friend told her about southwestern Connecticut's Health CareRx Academy (HCA), and she quickly enrolled. "From the first day of the program, I was really excited. I came early to

class, sat in the front, and participated completely." During the Foundation Skills Seminars, Paulette explored various healthcare career pathways, developed career goals, learned the in's and out's of financial planning, and received customer service and digital literacy training. She also received valuable training on medical ethics and HIPAA that she would need in any future healthcare career.

Paulette was then enrolled into the American Institute of Health and Technology for a twelve week class on phlebotomy and electrocardiography. HCA continued to support Paulette during her time in class by providing training scrubs and gas cards to help with her travel expenses. Paulette received her certificate as a Clinical Cardiographic and Phlebotomy Technician. After just one interview, she was hired and is now working 40 hours a week in the healthcare industry.

Scholarship Recipients to Graduate from Advanced Manufacturing Centers

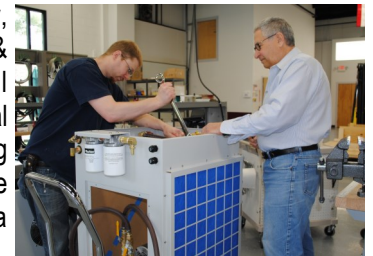


25 students supported by The WorkPlace will graduate in May from the Advanced Manufacturing Center at Housatonic Community College through the Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI). The program

builds upon the success of the Advanced Manufacturing Centers through Connecticut's community college's to increase the number of qualified workers in the high-demand manufacturing sector. 98% of students who complete the program are hired.

CAMI students prepare for careers in manufacturing with classroom instruction, computer and hands-on training in a lab environment. A variety of credit and non-credit certificate options are offered to boost skill sets and transition students from an educational environment into sustainable manufacturing careers.

Certificate options include Advanced Machine Technology, Additive Manufacturing, Tool & Die, Metrology, Metal Fabrication, Electro-Mechanical Technology and Manufacturing Principles & Practices. For more information, contact Paula Breen at 203-610-8547.



Visit Us

The **WorkPlace**

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americanjobcenter

Locations:
Bridgeport Ansonia
Derby Stamford
Phone: 1-866-859-8818

Upcoming Events

Platform to Employment Waterbury Graduation
April 12, 10AM, Century Plaza, 649 West Main Street, Waterbury

Toast to Success! Benefitting Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County
May 18th, 11:30am-1:30pm at The Patterson Club
Tickets Available: <http://bit.ly/dfsmfc2017>