

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

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May, 2017

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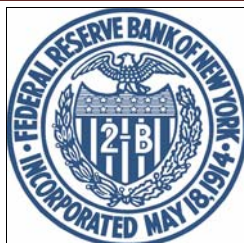
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Joseph Carbone Selected as Member of New York Federal Reserve Advisory Group



The WorkPlace's President and CEO Joseph Carbone has been appointed to serve on a newly launched Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The CAG, composed of leaders from the non-profit sector, will meet regularly to advise the New York Fed on socio-economic and financial conditions faced by communities in the Second District.

The launching of the CAG focuses on understanding the economic needs and realities of individuals and households from a range of communities and geographies. *"The New York Fed's region is home to incredibly diverse populations. The Community Advisory Group will offer critical, firsthand insight about the economic opportunities and challenges they are experiencing,"* said Anand Marri, vice president for Outreach and Education at the New York Fed. *"This committee will fill the knowledge gaps about how various groups are faring, which can inform our programs and research."*

Members of the CAG were selected based on their experience, expertise, and their ability to represent specific communities. Please join us in congratulating Joe Carbone!

Supporters of Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County Toast to Success!

Over 120 supporters of Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County (DFSMFC) gathered at Fairfield's prestigious Patterson Club on May 18th for a springtime luncheon in support of DFSMFC's mission to empower women to achieve economic independence. Guests enjoyed a champagne *Toast to Success* delivered by Chairwoman Lindy Lee Gold, client testimonials, remarks from Angela Williams, CPO of Dress for Success Worldwide, a fun raffle of items from throughout the region, and a fabulous lunch by Chef George Flay.



Emcee Beth Foster of WEBE 108, Special Guest Speaker Angela Williams of Dress for Success Worldwide, and Event Chairwoman Lindy Lee Gold.

Guests had the opportunity to hear first hand how Dress for Success programs improve the lives of local women. *"Looking the part for my upcoming interview was my obstacle to employment,"* said Jacinda Maatu, a member of the Professional Women's Group who attended the event. *"At my interview suiting, the volunteer personal shoppers helped me find clothing that breathed comfort and confidence. I felt so comfortable in my interview. Now that I have the job, I look forward to networking monthly with local women at the Professional Women's Group."*



Professional Women's Group member
Jacinda Maatu

Proceeds from the event benefit Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County programs, including the Simply Suited Boutique and the Professional Women's Group.

Photo Credits: Dennis Bradbury

Platform to Employment Helps Over 1000



The nationally recognized Platform to Employment (P2E) program held another successful statewide graduation at West Haven's Savin Rock Conference Center on May 24th. The graduation culminated a program year serving over 300 participants, and more than 1,000 across the state of Connecticut since the program began. Over 30% of participants in this class found employment before graduation. Empty chairs represented participants who could not attend because they were working at their new jobs.



For participant speaker Dennis Galemba, addressing the new graduates was an emotional experience. *"I had been out of work for three years and was 70 years old. I came to P2E with very little self-worth and low self-esteem, and I felt that there wasn't anything that could change that feeling. After I felt how much the staff saw in me, I began to believe. Slowly as the classes progressed, I felt more confident. They helped to instill a belief that I could empower myself to attain my dream job, if I would trust the process and the journey."* Dennis is now employed full time as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Help, Inc. in Waterbury.

P2E is made possible through the support of the Governor and Connecticut State Legislature. P2E has placed over 80% of graduates into employment opportunities. For more information, call 203-610-8492.

Facilitating Service Collaboration in the Valley



As a result of The WorkPlace's 2016 WIOA planning meetings, The

WorkPlace has launched a series of informational sessions for American Job Centers partners in the Valley. The four part series, sponsored by a grant from the Valley Community Foundation, seeks to increase awareness and collaboration of services offered through the American Job Center and the partner network. Contributors include Career Resources, Inc., Connecticut Department of Labor, TEAM, Inc., Valley Regional Adult Education, Department of Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind, and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Business leaders, service providers, and community members are invited to attend and contribute. Upcoming presentations include June 21st and July 19th at the Ansonia American Job Center, and September 13th at the Derby American Job Center. All sessions run from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. An RSVP is respectfully requested to Sarah Lewis at slewis@workplace.org or 203-610-8496.



Success Story

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Due to domestic violence, Texas resident and military veteran Omayra fled to Connecticut with her son to live with her sister. Within two weeks of her arrival, they were evicted and became homeless. She made efforts to secure assistance through various municipal agencies, but found no help. On December 8th, a Workforce Specialist from Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) made contact with Omayra through a referral made by the Continuum of Care in Stamford, CT. The Workforce Specialist quickly arranged for shelter at Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport so Omayra and her son could sleep safely at night. After investigating Omayra's options, they found she was entitled to a VA disability services. Her Workforce Specialist quickly enlisted the Veterans Administration to stop future disability payments that her past partner could access, worked to retrieve the funds owed, and helped her set up a new account for Omayra to access. Within 60 days of entering Homes for the Brave, Omayra found employment in Bronx, New York at a home healthcare agency, and began earning \$16.15 per hour. At the same time, her Workforce Specialist was able to secure permanent housing for her and her son in Ridgefield, CT. This veteran is now financially independent and able to provide for herself and her son.



Visit Us



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

Upcoming Events

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting
June 16, 2017, 8:15am, Housatonic Community College, Beacon Hall

Annual Awards Ceremony
June 29, 2017, Downtown Cabaret Theatre, 5:30pm