

# The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

January, 2018

## The WorkPlace Hosts February *MaturityWorks* Roundtable in NYC

The WorkPlace's President and CEO, Joseph Carbone, will host New York community leaders, *MaturityWorks* trainees, and host agencies for a roundtable conversation on issues facing mature workers on February 14th. Older Americans often struggle to find jobs when unemployed, taking an average of 40 weeks to return to work, compared to 24 weeks for their younger counterparts. The conversation is part of an essential dialogue regarding the ability of programs like the federally funded Senior Community Service Employment Program to foster individual economic self-sufficiency and promote employment among mature workers.

**SCSEP**  
SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

SCSEP is the only federal job training program focused exclusively on helping older Americans return to the workforce. Each year, 65,000 older workers nationally receive job training in their communities through SCSEP. The WorkPlace's SCSEP program, called *MaturityWorks*, currently assists over 1300 mature workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania. For more information on the roundtable or the *MaturityWorks* program, contact Mike McCarthy at 203-610-8554.

## PSEG Launches Ready2Work Program



New Jersey-based Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) has partnered with The WorkPlace to offer an opportunity for Bridgeport residents to prepare for careers in the growing construction industry. The 7-week *PSEG Ready 2 Work* program will prepare Bridgeport residents, including minorities, women and veterans, for potential apprenticeships in various building trades.

The current apprentice system can be complicated and very competitive. PSEG Ready2Work will address the needs of employers for a more diverse and skilled workforce, while providing graduates with a competitive advantage in qualifying for union apprenticeships. The program will cover a construction industry orientation, tools and materials, basic math for construction, how to read blueprints, green construction, and financial literacy. Graduates will obtain their OSHA 10, CPR, and

Green Awareness in Construction certifications. All books, tools and supplies will be provided to participants at no-cost. Individuals interested in applying should visit <https://bridgeportharborstation.com/ready2work>.

## Teresa Younger Selected to Receive 1st Annual Denny Taft Davidoff Empowerment Award

Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County has selected Ms. Foundation President & CEO Teresa Younger to receive the first annual Denny Taft Davidoff Empowerment Award at their spring fundraising event, *Toast to Success!* The award is given in honor of Denise "Denny" Taft Davidoff, a powerful life force dedicated to empowering people in the workforce, marketplace, and community. Denny served the community in many roles during her life, including Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and 25 years of service to The WorkPlace Board of Directors.

Ms. Younger was selected in recognition of her years of leadership and dedication to improving the lives and opportunities available to women. She currently serves as the President and CEO of the Ms. Foundation, the oldest women's foundation in the United States. Younger previously served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and as Executive Director of the ACLU of Connecticut, making her the first African American and the first woman to hold that position.

The event will be held at The Patterson Club on May 17th. Those who wish to inquire about ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities should contact Bernadette Deamico at 203-610-8562.



## Partner Highlight: Alpha Community Services

Alpha Community Services YMCA (ACS-Y), a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA based in Bridgeport, Connecticut, has provided innovative services for the homeless since the early 1990s. ACS-Y operates the only Family Emergency Shelter in Bridgeport, the largest such shelter in the state. ACS-Y also provides transitional housing for a number of families and serves more than 600 people in supportive housing units in Bridgeport and New Haven.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Since 2013, ACS-Y has partnered with The WorkPlace in the operation of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program (SSVF), a federally funded program administered by the Veterans Administration. SSVF is a short-term housing stabilization program designed to assist military veterans and their families that are literally homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Since its inception, SSVF's rapid re-housing assistance has become a substantial component of the crisis response system for homeless veterans. ACS-Y provides invaluable case management services for our military veteran households by assisting them with finding permanent, affordable housing and other supportive services necessary for sustainability. "Alpha has been an invaluable partner to the SSVF program," said manager Al Gopian. "They have played a critical role in helping to prevent and eliminate homelessness among our region's veteran population".

In addition to the services provided through the SSVF program, ACS-Y is also an invaluable community partner. Through its case management model, ACS-Y collaborates with other area agencies, as well as its affiliated Bridgeport area Ys, the Bridgeport YMCA and the Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA, to insure that clients are linked to any and all mental health, substance abuse, employment, medical, and educational services they need to achieve housing stability and greater self-sufficiency.

### P2E Accepting Applications



The WorkPlace is pleased to announce that the nationally recognized Platform to Employment (P2E) program is now accepting new applications for statewide classes. P2E

creates a pathway to employment for the long-term unemployed population, who have exhausted unemployment benefits. The program offers a five week preparatory program which includes workshops on resume writing, interview preparation, self-marketing and other skills. It also provides businesses a risk-free opportunity to evaluate local talent during a 4-week work experience program, financed by P2E. By eliminating employer risk during the hiring process, P2E breaks down a significant barrier to employment.

P2E will be offering programming in Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford, and New Haven. If you know of an individual who has exhausted unemployment benefits, Platform to Employment can help. To apply, visit [www.platformtoemployment.com](http://www.platformtoemployment.com).

### HCA Graduates CNA Students



Participants of the Health CareerRx Academy (HCA) celebrated their completion of a intensive eight-week CNA course this December. The certification was provided at no-cost to each participant through HCA's Health Professions Opportunity Grant, Strengthening Working Families Initiative Grant, and Health Career Opportunities Program.

The Health CareerRx Academy provides tuition assistance and training in healthcare education with a strong emphasis on skills remediation, individual career development, college readiness, job placement, assistance with childcare, and retention services. For more information, contact Adrene at 203-930-1637.

### Visit Us

**The WorkPlace**

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Web: [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org)

**americanjobcenter**

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

### Upcoming Events

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

March 16, 2018 from 8:15am to 9:30am  
Beacon Hall, 2nd Floor, Housatonic Community College

#### **Platform to Employment Statewide Graduation**

March 22, 2018 from 10am-12pm  
Old Judiciary Room, Connecticut State Capitol Building