

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

March, 2018

Regional Planning Meeting with SWCT Mayors and First Selectman



The WorkPlace will meet with Chief Elected Officials from the Southwest Connecticut workforce development region in early April for a comprehensive discussion on employment and workforce issues in the region. The meeting will include a review of current employment and economic conditions, and

improvements in the regions workforce system.

Updates to The WorkPlace's 2016-2020 regional workforce plan which was approved by the regions Chief Elected Officials in 2016 will be discussed. This is an opportunity to engage local officials on the changing economic conditions of the region.

The WorkPlace extends its thanks to Sacred Heart University for the use of their beautiful space at the Frank and Marisa Martin Business and Communications Center. For more information on the event, contact Tom Long at tlong@workplace.org.

We Need You! YouthWorks Earn and Learn Program Seeking Summer Worksites

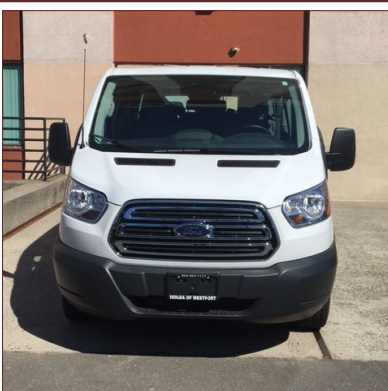


The YouthWorks 2018 Earn and Learn Summer Youth Program provides a intensive hands-on career exploration experience for low-income youth ages 16 to 21. Earn and Learn participants complete a workplace readiness training to ensure they know what is expected in professional work environments. They are then placed at an employer worksite for 20 hours a week for seven weeks during July and August. The summer jobs youth receive are typically their first

meaningful, paid work experience.

Hosting YouthWorks participants comes at no-cost to employers, as the program provides wage subsidies for the entirety of the seven week program. Past worksites is have included retail, manufacturing plants, small businesses, government agencies, and non-profits. Past business partners have found the program to be a valuable way to embark on projects they wouldn't otherwise have time for, and a way to help develop the next generation of workers. To learn more, contact Ray Hodge at 203-290-1947.

Health CareRx Academy's Van Purchase Will Help Overcome Transportation Barrier



Transportation is a barrier for many of The WorkPlace's customers, especially clients who reside in the largely rural Valley towns including Derby, Ansonia, Oxford, and Seymour. To address the need for reliable transportation, the Health CareRx Academy has purchased a 15 passenger van that will allow participants to travel to and from internship opportunities, and employment.

Inter-city bus transportation can be quite difficult, given that the bus systems operate on different schedules and accept different passes. Participants who rely on public

transportation are often forced to give up training and internship opportunities which provide them with the experience they need to gain employment.

Equipped with this vital resource, participants will be less restricted and can access trainings based on their educational need rather than their physical locality. The HCA van is another way in which The WorkPlace and the Health CareRx Academy are working to reduce barriers to employment faced by the most vulnerable job seekers in Fairfield County.



Success Story: Supportive Services for Veteran Families



A 59-year-old veteran came to The WorkPlace's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program after living in various shelters for over a year. His physically disabling condition had limited his ability to obtain full-time employment. The staff at SSVF helped the client obtain interim housing at Homes for the Brave, a non-profit organization that provides temporary housing for veterans.

With continued assistance from SSVF, the client was accepted into the VASH program, which provides long-term financial housing assistance. The veteran is now in the process of locating permanent housing, and is expected to obtain his own apartment soon. He was also able to find flexible employment in the food industry. With his newfound employment and benefits, the veteran will be able to support his basic housing and financial needs for the future.

SSVF assists veterans at risk of becoming homeless to maintain their housing, and to rapidly re-house veteran families who have recently become homeless in Southwest and South Central Connecticut. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and was founded upon the principle that every veteran has a right to housing. For more information, contact Debbie Venditti at 203-610-8544.

Tickets on Sale for Toast to Success!



Tickets are now on sale for Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County's annual benefit, Toast to Success! The event will take place at The Patterson Club on May 17th from 5:30pm-8:30pm, and will feature a La Moda Fashion Show, and a fun raffle of items from

throughout the region. Teresa Younger, President and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women will receive the first Denise "Denny" Davidoff Empowerment Award for her years of leadership and dedication to improving the lives and opportunities available to women. Past clients of the program will also share their personal stories of success.

The Patterson Club's Executive Chef Kevin Cottle is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of American and shares his love of seafood and fresh produce with guests.

Ticket are \$75 each, or five for \$550, and are available for sale at <http://midfairfieldcounty.dressforsuccess.org>. Companies interested in sponsorship opportunities or donating a service or raffle should contact Bernadette Deamico at bdeamico@workplace.org.

YouthBuild Hosts Employer Breakfast

Employers are invited to join YouthBuild Bridgeport for the second annual *Build Up Employer Breakfast* on April 9th to learn about providing construction related internships and job placements to participants. Hiring a graduate is a great way to expand productivity while providing valuable work experience to young people. The breakfast will take place at Habitat for



Humanity's offices located at 1542 Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport.

YouthBuild Bridgeport is a alternative education and training program for at-risk youth interested in pursuing a career in construction. The program is funded by the US Department of Labor and is operated in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County and Park City Communities. Participants obtain their GED and construction certifications, and gain experience by building affordable housing.

Interested employers should RSVP to Carmen Nieves at 203-290-1949 or youthbuildrec@workplace.org.

Visit Us

The WorkPlace

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americanjobcenter

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

Upcoming Events

Toast to Success! Benefitting Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County
May 17th, 5:30pm-8:30pm, The Patterson Club
Tickets available at <http://bit.ly/dfsmfc2018>

Annual Awards Ceremony
June 20th, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Downtown Cabaret Theatre