

# The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward. November , 2018

## DFS Financial Literacy Program Demonstrates Powerful Outcomes



Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County celebrated the conclusion of its first Financial Literacy Class in early November. 100% of graduates made upturns in their financial habits, which included creating a monthly budget, opening checking and savings accounts, and reviewing credit reports and credit scores.

The cohort collectively paid off \$12,400 in debt and saved a combined total of \$14,900!

The program, sponsored by Citizens Bank, focused on providing concentrated financial literacy education to members of the Dress for Success Professional Women's Group. Participants set financial goals, received classroom and one-on-one instruction, and tracked their progress.

"Being in this program helped me pay off three credit cards," said Karen, a participant of the program. "The classes and one-on-one instruction taught me what I needed to do to achieve financial health, and how to do it." Congratulations, Graduates!



## Health Career Academy New Occupational Training

The Health Career Academy (HCA) provides occupational skills training and work readiness to individuals who desire to begin or advance in a healthcare career. All training opportunities lead to a certificate or degree and prepare individuals to pass a state or national license exam.

The HCA recently added two new programs to the list of available occupational skill trainings for participants. Training as a Patient Care Technician is now available. This position has the most direct contact with patients and is a critical piece of any health care team. The Patient Care Technician training includes



Certified Nurse Aide, Phlebotomy, and EKG. Additionally, Sterile Processing Technician training was added. This training prepares medical professionals who specialize in stocking, sterilizing and preparing the tools and equipment used in a surgical procedure.

Upon completion of the training program, graduates are eligible for national certification through The Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution. Both professions project steady growth rates and annual wages. At least 40 participants per year are anticipated to enroll in these new training programs.

## 2018 Valor Awards— 6th Annual Recognition Ceremony



Serving and honoring Connecticut's veterans is of great importance to The WorkPlace. In preparation for Veterans Day, The WorkPlace partnered with Port 5 Naval Veterans, to host the sixth annual "Valor Awards" recognition ceremony.

Veterans Zofia Szwarc, U.S. Marine Corps and Jacques McAdams, U.S. Army were selected to receive this year's 2018 Valor Award for their dedication to overcome adversity despite large barriers and life challenges. Also honored was Abunassir Karim from Danbury, CT for providing housing and supporting the lives of veterans, and Premier Graphics for their commitment to training and hiring veterans. This year a special award was given to John Stewart Lahey, U.S. Marine Corps WWII for being an outstanding example

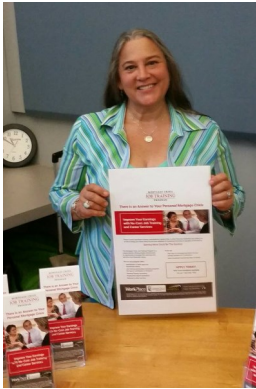
of an American patriot through his service and dedication to serve.

This year's keynote speaker, Colonel Jennifer Hicks McGowan from United States Military Academy at West Point delivered a powerful message honoring veterans and their families. She shared her personal story about why she initially joined the military and the sense of belonging she felt which was why she stayed. Following her heartfelt speech, two St. Josephs High School students read their award winning essays on "What Veterans Day Means to Me?" Lindsay Giovonne and Brian Melanson were each presented with a \$500 scholarship from Port 5 Naval Veterans to be used to further their education.



## Connecticut Foreclosures Still Historically High

The U.S. foreclosure rate hit a 13-year low, with Connecticut still among the half-dozen most active states where lenders are seizing properties, at a rate of about one in every 475 homes. The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program (MCJTP), now in its 10th year has worked with over 4,000



Connecticut residents, providing more than 2,300 job training scholarships since 2008. The MCJTP, which is offered on a state-wide basis, has helped 70% of its participants find new employment and others retain their jobs and advance their careers. A common issue homeowners face is the challenge of financial hardships. The MCJTP helps borrowers increase their job skills and become financially stable. Funded by the state of Connecticut, the MCJTP offers customized employment services, job training scholarships, job placement assistance, financial literacy classes, credit counseling, and referrals to other needed services – at no cost to eligible homeowners. Connecticut residents that are past due on their mortgage for their primary residence, and have a household income less than \$120,000, may be eligible for the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program. For information call 1-866-683-1682.



## Breast 101– Health Education Seminar



Recent studies show that Connecticut has the 2nd highest incident of breast cancer in the United States. The Health Career Academy hosted a Breast Health workshop facilitated by Glenda Perry of the Witness Project in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Founded in 2002, the Witness Project serves many underserved women in Bridgeport, Norwalk and Stamford communities. They work to provide culturally sensitive breast health education, and patient navigation services for uninsured women. They also sponsor mammography screening days in the communities. All of these efforts combined help facilitate early detection which is key to survival of breast cancer.

Attendees at the event learned important facts about breast cancer including that Trumbull and Stratford, Connecticut have some of the highest rates for late stage breast mortality. Ms. Perry led a discussion about how our diet and environment have a major impact on breast health and why it is important to get informed and spread awareness.

Regina Dotson had a career at Pitney Bowes spanning 15 years, first as a Computer Operator and then as a Print Operator. After retiring, she realized she needed to continue to work in order to meet her financial obligations. Plus, as a reliable and skilled individual, she still had a lot to offer the current labor force.



While attending a Career Resources Career Fair, Regina met representatives of MaturityWorks, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Her employment focus now changed to technical, office and administrative support. After her acceptance into the program and during her first Individual Employment Plan (IEP), Regina realized both her technical and administrative office skills were out-of-date for today's employment market.

As part of the MaturityWorks program, placement at the CT Department of Labor allowed Regina to train in their Career Center. Regina made herself an invaluable member of the Career Center team her supervisor, said "We can't lose Regina!" As a result, Career Resources recently offered Regina a full time position as a Program Assistant. Congratulations Regina!

### Visit Us

**The Workplace**

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**americanjobcenter**

Locations:  
Bridgeport Ansonia  
Derby Stamford

### Upcoming Events

#### Board of Directors Meeting

December 21, 2018  
Beacon Hall, 2nd floor, Housatonic Community College

#### DMV Express Office

License and ID card renewal program  
137 Henry Street, 2nd Floor, Stamford, CT  
Office open for business 11/28/2018