

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

January, 2019

The WorkPlace Takes Over Operations of DMV Express Office



The Department of Motor Vehicle Express offices allow Connecticut residents to renew driver's licenses and ID cards. Located at 137 Henry Street, the office which was previously open two days a week is now operated by The WorkPlace, and its days of operation have expanded to five days per week, by appointment only. The purpose of this DMV express is to make services more available and convenient for customers so they don't have to go to DMV offices throughout Connecticut. Additionally, it is a great opportunity to share information about the programs offered through The WorkPlace to patrons who are getting serviced at the DMV office. "The WorkPlace looks forward to serving the residents of southwest CT with expanded operations that increase convenience for DMV customers in the area." Joe Carbone, President & CEO of The WorkPlace.

Appointment time slots are filling up very quickly so if you find yourself in need of DMV services, you can go to www.workplace.org/dmv-express-stamford for a full list of available services, hours of operation and to quickly schedule an appointment.

2019 Talent Shortage Roundtable Series



Finding the right talent is often harder than expected, and something that is a very timely issue for some businesses in Connecticut. The WorkPlace is hosting a series of roundtable morning conversations with employers from across southwest Connecticut during the first quarter of the year in Norwalk (2/5), Bridgeport (2/13), Naugatuck Valley (2/26) and Stamford (3/7) to

hear from employers on how the skills shortage is impacting their business. The conversations will be facilitated by Joe Carbone, President & CEO of The WorkPlace and coordinated in partnership with local business associations. Over the past year media outlets have identified and documented the talent shortage which confronts many employers. Manpower Group recently released their annual survey regarding the talent shortage: <http://go.manpowergroup.com/talent-shortage-2018#thereport>.

Participant's will hear from businesses in the community on their response to the talent shortage. Additionally feedback will help the local workforce system create talent development strategies that support the business community. If you are a business leader who wishes to join the conversation please email award@workplace.org or call 203-610-8566 to RSVP and learn more.

Celebrating YouthBuild Bridgeport Graduating Cohort



YouthBuild Bridgeport is a community-based alternative education program for youth. It provides students support to make academic gains, get their GED, and move toward post-secondary opportunities. Students receive construction training and leadership opportunities through service as well as building affordable housing through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County.

On January 16, 2019 The WorkPlace celebrated graduating who are preparing to continue work in the field of construction. This class received certifications in Forklift, Asbestos, Lead, Hazwoper, Lead Renovator, OSHA 10 & OSHA 30, and CPR. Many also received their NCCER, a national construction and safety certification. Under this grant students collectively completed over 10,000 hours of community service. During those hours students worked on projects to build and install wheel chair ramps for seniors with disabilities, built bookshelves, constructed benches, and even handed keys to home owners at Habitat dedications. These students have worked extremely hard, and have pushed themselves outside their comfort zone, and have taken strides towards a successful future. During the graduation ceremony, students were given tool belts, tool sets, and their own professional portfolio to help them continue to advance in the construction field. -Congratulations graduates!



Celebrating Platform to Employment Graduation Cohort



Since its inception, Platform to Employment (P2E) has helped more than 1,000 Connecticut residents experiencing long-term unemployment find jobs. Between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018, 191 participants started the program and 81% went back to work! P2E focuses on coaching, skills assessments and career readiness workshops that rebuild participants' confidence and improve employability.



During P2E's recent graduation in December at The Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, participants in the crowd smiled from ear to ear with high self-esteem and determination to get back to work. This cohort began with 59 individuals initially enrolled and 56 completed the career readiness program. "That's about 95 percent success rate and that's got to be one of the highest since the program started," stated Joseph Carbone, President & CEO of The WorkPlace.

Half of the room was roped off with empty chairs with the names of graduates who could not attend graduation because they already secured employment. An employer partner, Monette Ferguson, Executive Director for ABCD Inc. in Bridgeport spoke at graduation and shared that five months ago she hired a P2E graduate in a management position and is working with P2E to fill two more positions!

Helping Spread Holiday Joy to Veterans

Home Depot in Orange, CT helped spread holiday joy this year while giving back to local veterans. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), a WorkPlace program helps veteran families at risk of becoming homeless to maintain their housing and to rapidly re-house veteran families who have recently become homeless. Home Depot employees were thrilled to partner with The WorkPlace and give Christmas trees to veterans who recently moved into independent housing. The idea came from a Home Depot employee and the management staff was on board to turn this idea into a reality. Through the Home Depot associate-led volunteer force they partner with nonprofits to improve the lives of veterans and their families.



Smiles were contagious as Justin, Merchandising Manager helped Stefan, Veteran, pick out a tree for his new apartment he was able to obtain with support from SSVF. Stefan said he could not recall the last time he put up a Christmas tree and was thrilled this time around to put on some holiday carols and decorate. Not only did

Home Depot donate the Christmas trees, they also donated the tree stand, the ornaments, and lights as well as a new tool set! SSVF was founded upon the principle that every veteran has the right to housing. Thanks to companies like Home Depot, this holiday season they helped those houses feel like homes.



Joanny's Journey to Success

While attending a GED program at a local community college, Joanny was introduced to the Health Career Academy. Starting a career in healthcare was a life goal of hers, and HCA seemed to come into her life at the perfect time. Joanny says she gravitated towards a career in healthcare, "It is in me to assist those in need of professional care in hard times and to make their lives a little brighter." After completing HCA's Foundation Skills Workshops, Joanny enrolled in a Certified Nursing Assistant program and received her CNA license. After many months of studying, Joanny also proudly obtained her GED.



Joanny then decided to continue her education and enroll in a Patient Care Technician program! As of today, she has recently graduated from her program and is determined to find employment. Joanny states that, "The WorkPlace has been my guidance and support when I saw no options or choices. They stay in communication and provide you with any help that's in their power. They will assist or find solutions in your best interests." Joanny's newest goal is to continue her education to ultimately become a Registered Nurse. The HCA commends Joanny on her perseverance.

Visit Us

The WorkPlace

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americanjobcenter

Locations:
Bridgeport Ansonia
Derby Stamford

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting

March 15, 2019

Beacon Hall, 2nd floor, Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport

Platform to Employment Statewide Graduation

March 22, 2019, 10am-12pm

Old Judiciary Room, Connecticut State Capital Building, Hartford