

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

May 2019

AARP Connecticut Joins the Conversation

According to AARP, more than 60 percent of workers age 50 and older have seen or experienced age discrimination looking for new employment. Having managed the state-wide Platform to Employment (P2E) program since 2011, The WorkPlace sees the growing number of long-term unemployed are over 50 years of age. The WorkPlace is partnering with AARP Connecticut to host roundtable discussions with long-term unemployed mature workers.



These conversations will be facilitated by Joseph Carbone, President & CEO, The WorkPlace and Nora Duncan, State Director, AARP Connecticut. There are challenges older workers face connecting with employment opportunities even though they are a valuable resource to employers. Employers are looking for people with soft skills, like good teamwork and collaboration or being able to write well. These are skills older workers have developed through their years of experience. AARP and other advocates for experienced workers have been collaborating with employers to counteract stereotypes and age bias that might affect older workers' career opportunities.

Celebrating Entering the Workforce

Since its inception, P2E is proud of a success rate of more than 80 percent of participants returning to work at an average wage of \$51,505. The WorkPlace held a statewide graduation of its Platform to Employment (P2E) program in March at the State Capitol. Students from New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford were recognized as graduates of the program, which since its inception has helped more than 1,200 long-term unemployed Connecticut residents find work.



Please join The WorkPlace and P2E graduates from Waterbury, Norwich, Bridgeport, and New Haven as we come together on **June 5th at 10am at Southern Connecticut State University** to celebrate the next graduating class.



For more information and to RSVP, please contact Amani at award@workplace.org or 203-610-8566.



Mobile Career Training Center Launched



The WorkPlace is thrilled to launch the new American Job Center Career Coach which is an enhanced version of the original coach from 2004. The original coach assisted over 18,000 job seekers throughout the 20-town region served in Connecticut and traveled over 100,000 miles.

The Coach offers residents career preparation and computer services. The Coach brings services to people who can not access The American Job Centers in Bridgeport, Ansonia, Derby and Stamford. Job search workshops include resume writing, Microsoft office, social networking and job search assistance. "It will go to where people need our services the most and ensure that they have the American Dream," said Joe Carbone, President & CEO, The WorkPlace.

The career coach provides 10 computer workstations, an ADA-compliant lift, private interview space and more. "If you're looking for a job and you're on unemployment, we want to do everything we can possibly do to get you that job and not allow people, through no fault of their own, to stay unemployed for longer than they should," said Kurt Westby, Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

For information on the career coach's next stops visit: <https://www.ajcswct.com/careercoach>

5th Ready to Work Graduation



Many joined to celebrate the accomplishments of the fifth class of PSEG's Ready2Work program! Over the course of several weeks, participants gained valuable knowledge and hands-on experience of the construction trades.



The pre-apprenticeship program provided Bridgeport residents with free training to prepare them for high-paying local union apprenticeships. Participants got a

chance to see what working in a trade is like for 7 weeks and graduated with valuable trade certifications. One graduate commented on how much she valued the experience the Ready2Work program provided her and her classmates, "Other people that are applying [to the local trades] don't get to have the same hands-on experience as we do thanks to this program and that means a lot when you're trying to get in."

PSEG, the teachers and local union representatives are astounded by its success and impact on Bridgeport residents over the past 14 months. Thank you to all participants for your hard work and dedication and congratulations to class number 5 on all your accomplishments!

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 23rd from 5:30pm to 8:00pm** and will feature a Lord & Taylor fashion show, and fun door prizes from throughout the region.



Congresswomen Rosa DeLauro will receive the evenings Denise "Denny" Davidoff Empowerment Award for her concentrated efforts in ensuring "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds." Her sponsorship of legislation to provide training and support to individuals who support families, and numerous other initiatives around women's rights, access to employment, and women's health that have had an impact on women's lives around the nation.



Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/ToastSuccess19>.

Marianne's Journey to Success

Meet Marianne, one of the 11,000 women empowered at Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County.



Marianne came to Dress for Success following a lay off in 2004. After her suiting she joined the Professional Women's Group, where she learned valuable work skills and networked with other women. In 2018, she took part in the first Financial Literacy Program cohort to help reach her financial goals. "Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield is a place where you never stop learning. Being a part of the Professional Women's Group and the Financial Literacy Program has given me the tools and confidence needed to grow in my career and personal life".

Marianne is a leader in her community. She created Choices – a youth violence prevention program, and regularly volunteers with her Dress for Success sisters at local organizations.

By attending Toast to Success! 2019 Annual Benefit, you will help build a better future for all women. Please join us as we celebrate success! <http://bit.ly/ToastSuccess19>

Photo Credit: Kate Eismann Pictures

Visit Us

The WorkPlace

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Email: info2@workplace.org
Web: www.workplace.org

americanjobcenter

Locations:
Bridgeport Ansonia
Derby Stamford

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting

June 21, 2019
Beacon Hall, 2nd floor, Housatonic Community College

The WorkPlace Annual Award Ceremony

Thursday June 27, 2019 from 5:15pm-7pm
Downtown Cabaret Theatre, 263 Golden Hill Street #3 Bridgeport, CT 06604
RSVP to Amani Ward , award@workplace.org or 203-610-8566