

# The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

March 2020

## YouthWorks Host Work Readiness Workshop

YouthWorks, in partnership with the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI), hosted a work readiness workshop on February 27th at The Holiday Inn in Bridgeport. The DEI aims to improve training, education and employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. The workshop provided participants with skills to enhance their job search, work readiness techniques and featured a wellness portion hosted by Alejandra Hochstedler, of Stamford Clinical Services LLC.

Alejandra is a certified clinical psychologist and cognitive behavior group facilitator. She focused the wellness portion of the workshop on self esteem and worked with the participants on how to turn negative thoughts into positive thoughts to help boost their confidence when doing job search and interviews. Participants also heard from Tony Tozzi, from the Boys and Girls Club of Bridgeport. Tony has hired youth during YouthWorks Summer Earn and Learn Program and spoke to the participants about what he looks for when hiring youth and the importance of staying focused and showing up on time.



Alejandra Hochstedler facilitating the wellness portion of the workshop with a hands on activity.

## New Podcast



The WorkPlace recently launched a new podcast, The Whistle Post, that features conversations about the world of workforce and community development with the people who are

making it happen. The Whistle Post will explore industry crossroads, milestones and the critical work of leaders and those on the front lines of initiatives that are making a difference in people's lives. Listen to conversations calling attention to solutions and best practices in thriving communities. Listen now on Spotify, Anchor, Apply Music or wherever you listen to podcasts.

## Offices Closed to The Public

At the WorkPlace our number one priority is the health and safety of our staff and the people we serve. The Connecticut offices of The WorkPlace will be closed to the public until further notice. Additionally, Dress For Success Mid-Fairfield County is suspending all donations at our Bridgeport office and any drop-off sites.

Staff is still available by phone and email. Our main number is (203)610-8500. For a list of staff phone numbers please visit [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org).

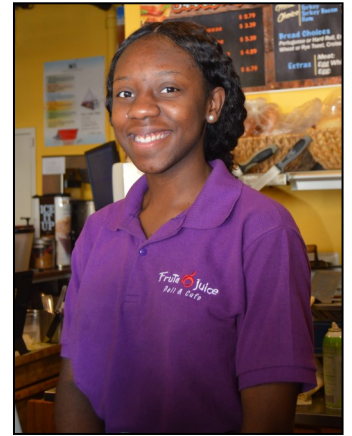
Please know that we are monitoring health advisories from both federal and state sources and we are prepared to modify operations as needed. Updates from the CDC on conditions, healthy living options and emergency preparedness can be found at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).



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

YouthWorks 2020 Earn and Learn Summer Youth Program provides an intensive hands-on career exploration experience for youth ages 16 to 21. Participants complete a work place readiness training to ensure they know what is expected in professional work environments. Participants are then placed at an employer worksite for 20 hours per-week for seven weeks in July and August. The summer youth program is critical to providing our emerging workforce with the skills they need to create a successful future.

Hosting a YouthWorks participant comes at no-cost to employers as the program provides wage subsidies for the entirety of the seven-week program. Past worksites have included hospitals, small businesses, retail, manufacturing and government agencies. To learn more, contact Ray Hodges at (203) 610-8510.



## New Programs to Help Support Veterans

The WorkPlace is pleased to announce two new programs to help support veterans in making the transition back into the workforce. Military to Machinist and Platform to Employment Veterans are both actively recruiting participants for upcoming classes.

**Military to Machinist** Military to Machinist will connect veterans living in southwestern Connecticut with education and training services and help them find apprenticeships and/or employment with local manufacturing companies. For more information contact Debra Keel at (203)610-8141 or [dkeel@workplace.org](mailto:dkeel@workplace.org)

**Platform to Employment** P2E Veterans helps veterans living in Fairfield County and surrounding towns find career opportunities. Veterans who participate in the program can expect to improve job search skills, work with dedicated career coach and employment specialist, connect with a committed support system and obtain employment. To apply visit [platformtoemployment.com](http://platformtoemployment.com)

»» A WorkPlace Opportunity.

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## P2E Graduate Shares Her Story

Terri Woods joined the Platform to Employment (P2E) program after being laid off from her job as a paralegal. She was skeptical at first because she hadn't been able to find a job on her own. But after completing multiple classes she began to feel her confidence rebound.



She dedicated herself to following the suggestions and techniques taught by the P2E instructors and jumped in with both feet. She worked hard and dedicated herself to the techniques offered to her and jumped in with both feet. Terri was able to secure employment after her first interview as a paralegal for Ganim Legal Firm in Bridgeport, CT.

"My experience with the program has been completely inspiring. I almost didn't apply so I am grateful that the lord convinced me to just try it. It was not disappointing and everything about the program totally surpassed my expectations. P2E taught me how to search for a job, deal with depression and anxiety, write a relevant resume and have a powerful interview. The instructors provided so many jewels of information that I can share with family and friends."

## Visit Us

The WorkPlace

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Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: (203)-610-8500  
Email: [info2@workplace.org](mailto:info2@workplace.org)  
Web: [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org)

americanjobcenter

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

## Upcoming Events

**Toast To Success! Benefiting Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County**

September 23rd, 2020 6pm-9pm  
Brooklawn Country Club 500 Algonquin Rd, Fairfield, CT

**Annual Award Ceremony**

June 25th, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Downtown Cabaret Theatre