

Working in the

AmericanJobCenter®

A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network

*Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc. (NPWDB, Inc.)
Bi-Annual Newsletter*

"CONNECTION TO YOUR FUTURE" 2019 CAREER EXPO

"Connection To Your Future" 2019 Career Fair, sponsored by the Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register, Times Leader, Herald Star and Weirton Daily Times, was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at WesBanco Arena. This event was **FREE** to the public.



The Wheeling American Job Center (AJC) partnered with Joe Lovell, Advertising and Special Events Consultant with the Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register, for this "Career Fair". The AJC was able to have a table set up alongside other participating employers, plus Rebecca Rasperry, Manager of the American Job Centers, was provided space which

enabled her to hold break-off group sessions during the day with job seekers. Topics discussed during the group sessions included: How to Dress for a Job Fair; Developing Your Resume; Getting the Most Out of a Job Fair; Interacting with Employers; Tips to Having a Successful Interview; etc.



Dozens of people seeking employment or those looking for a change in career attended the "Career Fair". Employers participating in the "Career Fair" specialized in Technology, Communications, Security, Healthcare, Construction, Food Service, Retail, etc.

The "Career Fair" was a great opportunity for employers and job seekers.

NPWDB, INC. YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

The NPWDB, Inc., in coordination with their Youth Provider, Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS, Inc.), operates four (4) Youth Work Experience Programs per year which include: The Summer Youth Work Program, The Fall Work Program, The Winter Work Program and The Spring Work Program. WIOA Eligible youth residing in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler counties and the cities of Weirton and Wheeling have the opportunity to participate in these Work Experience Programs.

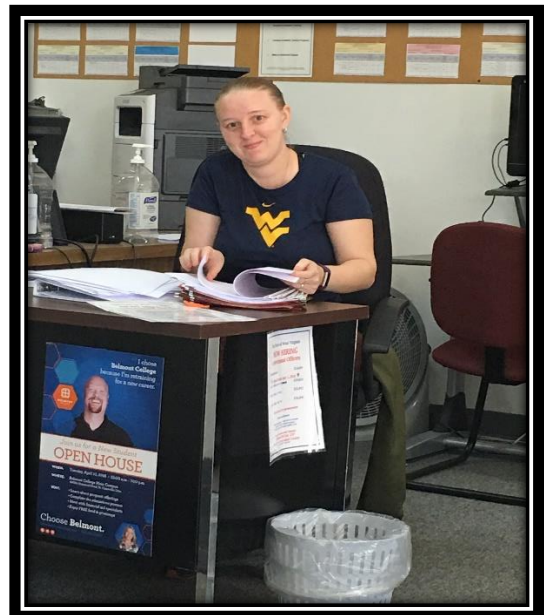
Work Experience is one (1) of the fourteen (14) required Elements for the WIOA Youth Program. Under WIOA, a minimum of twenty (20%) percent of funds must be spent on Youth Work Experiences. Work Experience is defined as a planned, structured learning experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time, and provides youth with multiple opportunities for career exploration and skill development. The Work Experience Programs can take place in the private-for-profit sector, non-profit sector, or public sector, and must include academic and occupational education.

For young people today, the labor market seems to be more challenging and competitive than in earlier generations. Employers have an increased expectation for academic skills, as well as work readiness, communication, and other “soft” skills. Participating youth in our Work Programs are able to learn what employers expect of them. They are also provided the opportunity to build problem-solving, communication, teamwork skills that are skills they will use throughout their life. Our Work Experiences are making great progress toward innovating approaches

to improve skills development opportunities, aligning work experience with career pathways, and building stronger employer partnerships.



Wetzel County Commission – 4-H Worksite



New Martinsville American Job Center Worksite

The NPWDB, Inc. would like to thank all County Commissioners, NPWDB, Inc. Board of Directors, YSS, Inc. and participating youth for making the Work Experience Programs such a success in the Northern Panhandle region.

YOUTH QUARTERLY WORKSHOPS

On Saturday, April 13, 2019, YSS, Inc. Staff and youth participants attended the Women's Workshop – Sponsored by the Junior League of Wheeling. The Workshop was held at the YWCA, 1100 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV from 10:00 AM to Noon.

The Junior League of Wheeling is committed to promoting volunteerism, empowering young women through community experiences, and improving communities through the effective action of leadership of trained volunteers. One of the goals set by the League this year was to hold a Workshop for area women to explore educational and career options. Activities included in this Workshop were: Mock Interviews; Email Etiquette; Resume Building; and, Professional Image Development. Child care and lunch were also provided through the Junior League of Wheeling at no cost to those attending.

On Monday, April 22, 2019, YSS, Inc. held their Annual "Earth Day" event at their Hazel Atlas Building, 87 15th Street, Wheeling. YSS, Inc. invited guest speaker, Lisa Ingram, WVU Extension Agent from the WVU Extension Office in Marshall County. Lisa presented the youth participants information about the following: What is Juuling and Vaping (e-cigarettes); At what age do youth typically start Juuling and Vaping; Most Juules and Vapes do contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals; and, Risks associated with Juuling and Vaping. The purpose of this training was to educate those attending about the health and safety risks associated with Juuling and Vaping, and how they can get help to stop if they are current users of these. Making youth aware of the things that could happen is an important awareness effort that YSS, Inc. Staff take very seriously.



YOUTH SUCCESS STORY



Elizabeth Yoho, who is now 24 years old, enrolled in the Year Round Youth Program with YSS, Inc. in July 2018. Elizabeth had walked into the New Martinsville American Job Center looking for help in finding a job so she could support her son. She was a single parent, had little work experience and was on probation for a drug charge. YSS, Inc. Staff knew she would benefit from the Youth Work Experience Program. Elizabeth was placed at the New Martinsville American Job Center as an Office Assistant in the Summer Work Program, Fall Work Program and Winter Work Program. She learned how to answer the telephone in a professional manner, how to use office equipment such as the copier, fax, and computers.

Through mentoring with Jaime Long, YSS, Inc. Life Skills Specialist, they worked on financial literacy, coping with the struggles of recovering from addiction, how to have a successful interview, etc. During this time, Elizabeth was also participating with Narcotics Anonymous and working with her sponsor. In January 2019, she was feeling more confident about herself and started to apply for jobs again. With the help of Jaime Long, she was able to find companies who were willing to work with her background. After a few interviews,



Youth also participated in a "Earth Day Litter Pickup" in East Wheeling after the presentation from Lisa Ingram. YSS, Inc. Staff, along with youth participants, filled several garbage bags with the litter they collected. This Event is always a great opportunity for them to get outside, connect with nature, work as a group, and take pride in their community.

Elizabeth was hired by DeepWell Energy Services as a traffic controller. She has been drug free for over 18 months and her Probation Officer is trying to finish her probation early because of how well she has been doing.

Elizabeth is still employed with DeepWell Energy Services. She is working a lot of hours and said the pay is good. Moving on to a new stage in life can be a challenging process. Good luck to you, Elizabeth, as you move onto the next stage in your life. Without a doubt, you will continue to have success in all areas!

To find out more about the YSS, Inc. Youth Opportunities Unlimited! Year Round Youth Program, please contact Alyse Maxell at 304-215-8464 or 304-233-9627 ext. 315.

**AMERICAN JOB CENTER
TRAFFIC REPORT PROGRAM
YTD**

(WIOA Program Year 7/01/2018 through 6/30/2019)

WHEELING

New Customers: 253
Repeat Customers: 9,857

WEIRTON

New Customers: 115
Repeat Customers: 7,181

NEW MARTINSVILLE

New Customers: 137
Repeat Customers: 2,450

GRAND TOTALS

New Customers: 505
Repeat Customers: 19,488

CAREER PATHWAY SYSTEM



WIOA encourages the implementation of Career Pathways by each Workforce Development Board. The NPWDB, Inc. understands the realities of pursuing a career in today's job market. A Career Pathway Committee was formed to establish community-driven strategies to help the NPWDB, Inc. and the American Job Centers in connecting our job seekers to the resources necessary to thrive in our region. The Committee is made up of Partners representing the following: Adult Education, NPWDB, Inc. Staff members, Manager of the regional AJC's, Community and Technical Colleges, and Local Employers.

You might be wondering, what is a Career Pathway? The term "Career Pathway" refers to a clear sequence of education coursework and/or training credentials that: (1) Is aligned with the skills needed for regional In-Demand Occupations; (2) Includes the full range of Secondary, Adult Education, and Post-Secondary Education options; (3) Is organized to meet the particular needs of individuals with multiple entry and exit points; (4) Includes Academic and Career Counseling and Support Services; and, (5) Leads to the attainment of an Industry-Recognized Degree or Credential.

Using Career Pathways will help connect individuals to jobs that are In-Demand in our region, and offer visible “pathways” for advancement that will lead to earning a credential. Whether the individual enters the AJC looking for a new career, wanting to advance in their current career, in need of some skills to get them back into the workforce quickly, or they are just starting the process of looking for their first job and have low skills, Career Pathways is an effective workforce development strategy to assist those with the greatest barriers to obtain employment.

The Career Pathway Committee has been meeting and creating “Career Pathway Flow Charts” to be used with our customers in our regional AJC’s. Each step in the “Pathway” allows for the individual to gain marketable skillset and credential, preparing them for the next job on the “Path.” There is a total of sixteen (16) Career Clusters. The Committee decided unanimously to start designing Career Pathways for the Career Clusters which represent the region’s fastest growing In-Demand Occupations, which are: Healthcare, CDL, Manufacturing, and Information Technology. Eventually, the Committee will have a “Career Pathway Flow Chart” for each of the sixteen (16) Career Clusters.

Christine Smith, a member of the Career Pathway Committee said “This Career Pathway Project will transform the way job seekers learn about the regional In-Demand Occupations and how to get funding from WIOA for an Individual Training Account (ITA). The partnership that is required from the employers, establishes a unified and improved connection for the job seekers as well as the needs of area businesses.”

If you are a job seeker and unsure of what direction to take in your search for a new or better career, please visit one of our regional American Job Centers, where you will find trained Staff ready to assist you on your “Career Path”:

State Office Building
100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 350
Weirton, WV 26062
304-723-5337

Warwood Shopping Plaza
1275 Warwood Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-232-6280

New Martinsville Shopping Plaza
257 Rt. 2 North
New Martinsville, WV 26155
304-455-6184



Stay true to yourself, yet always be open to learn. Work hard, and never give up on your dreams, even when nobody else believes they can come true but you. These are not clichés but real tools you need no matter what you do in life to stay focused on your path.

Phillip Sweet

NEW MARTINSVILLE AMERICAN JOB CENTER JOB FAIR



The New Martinsville American Job Center in conjunction with the New Martinsville Chamber of Commerce and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources held a Job Fair at the New Martinsville Methodist Church on Thursday, May 23, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event was **FREE** to the public, as well as employers, and offered businesses the chance to meet, interview and hire qualified individuals to fill full-time and part-time positions.

Job seekers were encouraged to visit their local American Job Center prior to the Job Fair if they needed help preparing their resume.

What are the benefits of attending a Job Fair? Networking with employers is crucial during a Job Fair. Employers are more likely to hire those that they would want to work with, so be friendly, dress professional and always be polite. In addition to networking with employers, attending Job Fairs also provides you an opportunity to network with other job

seekers. They may know of companies hiring individuals with your skill set. Always be prepared with basic answers to the most obvious questions is one of the most important things a job seeker can do. You never know when an employer will like what they see on your resume and want to interview you on the spot.

The following is a list of those employers who participated/attended the Job Fair: West Virginia Laborers' Training Trust Fund; WesBanco Bank; United Talent Staffing; Mancan; Cabela's; Keystone Clearwater Solutions; Iron Workers Local Union #549; Scioto-Winans; Wetzel County Adult Education; Eastern Gateway Community College; All State Career; Wheeling Vet Center; Youth Services System, Inc.; Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc.; WorkForce WV Unemployment and Job Service; West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation; West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services; Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics; West Virginia Northern Community College; Northern Regional Jail and Correctional Center; REM; United States Army; O.V. Truck Driving Training; Washington County Career Center; Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce; and, the National Council on Aging.

***What lies behind you and what lies
in front of you, pales in comparison
to what lies inside of you.***
Ralph Waldo Emerson

RAPID RESPONSE

Pam Hedrick, Region Five's Rapid Response Coordinator, organizes Rapid Response Meetings in our Region and offers services on a smaller scale. Rapid Response services that are offered in our Region include the following: How to Survive a Layoff Informational Meeting; Labor Market and Career Counseling; Resume and Cover Letter Development; Explanation of Unemployment Insurance and Benefits; Short and Long-Term Occupational Skills Training; Health Insurance Information; Basic Skills Training; Individual Career Counseling; and, Interviewing Skills.

When layoffs are unavoidable, the Rapid Response Coordinator in Region Five provides vital assistance to both the affected workers and their communities. Rapid Response is helpful through all phases of the business cycle and coordinate transition assistance to impacted employees by helping them transition to reemployment as quickly as possible. Company closings and layoffs pose great hardships on employees and employers. Relieving the effects of dislocation through Rapid Response is a positive and responsible way to help lighten the hardships off those affected.

Ideally, Rapid Response activities are provided on-site and if not possible, then off-site, but as nearby as possible so all affected employees have the opportunity to attend. Providing Rapid Response to your workers will help assure: Higher productivity and worker morale and lower absenteeism during a layoff event due to reduced stress; Lower unemployment insurance costs as workers are re-employed more quickly when services are started prior to the actual layoff; Decreases the likelihood of sabotage or work disruptions; and, Better public relations for the employer

as the employer will be highlighted in the media that it is providing these services to its workers.

Being laid off from a job is one of the most traumatic events a person can experience in life. During the Rapid Response Orientation Meetings, our Coordinator will help affected employees to cope with this major life change by gathering information about their current skills, career interests and other needs to make the necessary referrals to help them return to the workforce.

Business who are planning to lay off employees, close or reorganize should contact Pam Hedrick at the Wheeling American Job Center by calling 304-232-6280 or email npwibinc@gmail.com. Rapid Response services are provided **FREE** of charge to the employer and employees.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CUSTOMER</u>	<u>TYPE OF MEETING</u>	<u>ACTUAL and/or PROJECTED EMPLOYEES ATTENDING MEETING</u>
March 2019	Rite Aid	Informational	2
April 2019	Alecto – OVMC	Informational	6

All progress takes place outside the comfort zone.

Michael John Bobak

NPWDB, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR PY2019-20

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Joe Barnabei- *Hancock County
Commissioner, **Chief LEO***
Tim Connell – *Ward I Councilman of
Weirton*
Stacey Wise- *Brooke County
Commissioner*
Don Nickerson- *Ohio County
Commissioner*
Chad Thalman – *Vice Mayor of
Wheeling*
John Gruzinkas- *Marshall County
Commissioner*
Lisa Heasley- *Wetzel County
Commissioner*
Mike Smith- *Tyler County Commissioner*

BOARD OFFICERS

John Sorrenti- *Chairman*
Patrick Walsh- *Vice-Chairman*
Rodd Haller- *Treasurer*
John Looney- *Secretary*

NPWDB, INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Hancock County
John Sorrenti
Bill Tice
Walter Ruszkowski

City of Weirton
Thomas Welch
Casey Richards
Jason Kazmirski

Brooke County
Kim McConnaughy
Mike Vitello
Jon Meriwether

Ohio County
Michelle Olejasz
Steve Terry
Darcy Clark

City of Wheeling
John Looney
Rodd Haller
Lisa Werner

Marshall County
Joe Donahue
Josh Jefferson
Debbie Williams

Wetzel County
Tina Rush
Debbie Bennett
Tammy Bowers

Tyler County
Eric Peters
Todd Strickler
Patrick Walsh

***The greatest poverty that can afflict
the human spirit is the loss of a
generous heart. You will know that
success has slipped away when your
passion for helping others grows
cold.***

Bill Lane Doulos

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES



Regional American Job Centers offer FREE Basic Computer Classes at their Wheeling, Weirton and New Martinsville locations. Classes are designed for those who are completely new to computers or who feel they need to have more instruction. Along with learning about basic keyboarding, internet navigation, Microsoft Office, etc., classes will also incorporate resume writing, interviewing skills, customer service skills, and much more! Adult Education Instructors and One Stop Operator Staff conduct these Classes.

To find out when the FREE Basic Computer Classes are offered at the regional American Job Centers please contact the following: Wheeling – Michelle Miller at 304-232-6280; Weirton – Kimbre Davis at 304-723-5337; and New Martinsville – Darlena French at 304-455-6184.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

All Partners, approved Training Providers, Staff and Clients of regional American Job Centers can submit articles, ideas, etc. for this Newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, idea, etc. such as a success story, please contact Christine Smith at the NPWDB, Inc. by email at npwibinc@gmail.com or by phone at 304-231-1170.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

Steve Jobs

NPWDB, Inc./WIOA funded programs are equal opportunity employer programs.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY/TDD 304-233-8091

The NPWDB, Inc. programs and services discussed are 100% WIOA funded.
No programs or services have been financed by non-governmental sources.