

# Working in the

# AmericanJobCenter®

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

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## **WHAT CAN THE AMERICAN JOB CENTER DO FOR YOU?**

American Job Centers (AJC's) are at the heart of the workforce development system under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. AJC's provide an integrated array of high-quality services so that Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth (14-24 years of age) and Employers can conveniently find the help they need under one roof in convenient locations. Our region covers the following counties in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler, and the cities of Weirton and Wheeling.

Based on the belief that there is nothing more important to a region's economic vitality than a highly skilled workforce, our AJC staff focuses its attention on identifying the workforce needs of our region's employers, job seekers and youth. Whether you are beginning down an unfamiliar career path, want to go into a training, need to sharpen your interview skills, or just need help finding a new job, our AJC's have knowledgeable and friendly staff who are ready to help. Our AJC's also house an assortment of

government agencies and other "Partners", to provide a "one stop shop" for our customers. This makes it nice when a customer walks in and needs assistance from more than one agency.

Each customer will be provided with an Orientation by AJC staff, which is an overview of our available **FREE** Programs & Services. Those Services include, but are not limited to, the following: Career Planning/Counseling; Resume Assistance; Job Search Assistance; Interest and Aptitude Assessment; Self-Paced Computer Class; Workshops; Mock Interviews; Short-term and Long-term Training Options; Information & Referrals to Partnering Agencies; Labor Market Information; and, Available Supportive Services. Our Training Programs include: Individual Training Account (ITA); Work Experience; On-the-Job Training; Customized Training; Incumbent Worker Training; and, Apprenticeship Training Programs.

Employer Services are also offered **FREE** of charge. AJC staff are able to search through their pool of job seekers to assist in filling current job openings; Provide Interview Space at the AJC's if

the Employer Wishes to Recruit On-site; Rapid Response Services; and much more. The main purpose is to ensure our local employers become, and remain, competitive by having access to a highly skilled and well-educated labor pool for In-Demand occupations that provide family sustaining wages and benefits.

Maybe you are interested in building skills or being trained for a new career. Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible to get some or all of those costs covered by our funding from the Department of Labor. If you are interested in learning more about "What Can the American Job Center Do For You?", please call and/or visit the AJC nearest you. Our region has three (3) AJC's located in Weirton - 100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 350, Weirton, WV 26062, 304-723-5337; Wheeling - 1275 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003, 304-232-6280; and, New Martinsville - 257 Route 2 North, New Martinsville, WV 26155, 304-455-6184.

***"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."***

**~Steve Jobs**

## **BROOKE COUNTY'S LARGEST** **"JOB FAIR"**

When it was announced in June 2019 that Koppers would be closing its Follansbee facility, which would result in forty-eight (48) workers losing their jobs, the community came together to plan a "Job Fair". The "Event" was organized by JSW Steel and the Follansbee Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Brooke County Commission and the Business Development Corp. of the Northern Panhandle.

What started as JSW Steel making a proposal of hiring some of the "skilled workers" who would be losing their jobs from Koppers, quickly became Brooke County's largest "Job Fair" in History. Brooke County Commissioner, AJ Thomas, who also sits on the Board of Directors for the Business Development Corp. of the Northern Panhandle, thought it would be a great idea to contact other employers/organizations in the area to see if they had any job openings for these "skilled workers". Many local employers responded with a "yes" and this is how the "Job Fair" grew to be the largest "Job Fair" held in Brooke County's history.

The main purpose of this "Job Fair" was to help make a seamless transition for those employees losing their jobs at Koppers who want to remain in this area. Commissioner Thomas contacted the Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc. (NPWDB, Inc.) to see if we would help individuals prepare their resumes and also help with mock interviews prior to the "Job Fair".

Some of the individuals losing their job at Koppers, have not had to prepare a resume, or interview for a job, in ten (10), twenty (20) or even thirty (30) years. The NPWDB, Inc. Executive Director, Rosemary Guida, was also present at the "Job Fair" to explain the Programs & Services available for both job seekers and employers.

The "Job Fair", which was held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at Vito's 2, located in Follansbee, with twenty (20) employers present and ready to hire Ohio Valley residents. The following companies participated in the "Job Fair": JSW Steel; Mountain State Carbon; Pietro Fiorentini; Wheeling-Nisshin; Jupiter Aluminum; Frontier Group of Companies; Mondi Bags USA; Brooke County Board of Education; Lombardi Development; Simons Company; Express Employment; Hammond Public Water District; John D. Rockefeller Center; Brooke County Vo Tech; West Virginia Northern Community College; the Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc.; Eagle Manufacturing; West Virginia State Police; WorkForce West Virginia; and Horizon Financial Group.

The NPWDB, Inc. would like to extend a big THANK YOU! to the Brooke County Commissioners for inviting us to participate in the "Job Fair".



**\*Photo courtesy of the Follansbee Chamber of Commerce.**



**\*Photo courtesy of the Follansbee Chamber of Commerce**

***"When the people who support and are a part of your community, the community you have the pleasure and power and opportunity to serve, that's where all the best business happens."***

**~Chris Brogan**

## **NPWDB, INC. STAFF AND PARTNER TRAINING**

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board, Inc. (NPWDB, Inc.) Staff, American Job Center Staff and Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS, Inc.) **Youth Opportunities Unlimited!** Program Staff members attended a WIOA and Safety Training at the Wheeling American Job Center.

Staff attends at least two (2) WIOA and Safety Training Sessions each Program Year. Christine Smith, Records Coordinator of the Safety & Loss Control Committee, invited Wayland Harris, Threat Preparedness Director of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, to do present the "Naloxone Community Opioid Overdose Training".



It's no secret that Opioid Addiction/Overdose has continually risen in the United States within recent years. Naloxone education and certification is highly recommended for everyone. Unfortunately, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), West Virginia is one of the hardest hit states for the

Opioid Epidemic. It is because of this reason, that we thought all Staff would benefit from this "Safety Training".

What is Naloxone? Naloxone is a life-saving drug that, when administered correctly, can revive overdose victims within minutes. Its brand name is "Narcan". Naloxone helps restore breathing to a person who is overdosing from Opioid drugs such as heroin, oxycontin, oxycodone and fentanyl. Naloxone will only work to reverse the effects of Opioids and will not prevent deaths caused by other drugs such as Xanax, Klonopin, Valium, Bath Salts, Cocaine, Alcohol, etc. The primary goal of this Safety Training was for Staff to be able to: Recognize the Signs and Symptoms of an Opioid Overdose; Properly Administer Naloxone (Narcan – Nasal Spray); Know the Necessary Follow-up Steps; Receive a Training Certificate; and, Receive a Health Department Issued Prescription for Narcan Nasal Spray. Each Staff member who participated in the "Safety Training" was provided with a Narcan Nasal Spray Kit to keep with them.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department offers Community Opioid Overdose Trainings. Residents who want to be trained to administer "Narcan" should register by contacting the Health Department or Registering in person at the Health Department. If your business or organization is interested in arranging a training contact the Health Department to set up a training time and location. Local police departments and First Responders interested in arranging for training can contact the Wheeling-Ohio

County Health Department at (304) 234-3682.

Executive Director, Rosemary Guida; Assistant Director, Erinn Kittle; and, MACC Coordinator, Gena Saffell also provided staff members an update on WIOA Programs and Services. Topics covered included: Employer Services Programs, Opioid Grants, Apprenticeship Programs, MACC System - Youth Services, Equal Opportunity Updates and Youth Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

## **NPWDB, INC. YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS**

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

***"Successful people do what unsuccessful people are not willing to do. Don't wish it were easier, wish you were better."***

**~Jim Rohn**



**Left: Cameron Hallack, Right Back: Andrew Snider, Right Front: Josh Kibler – The Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling**

The NPWDB, Inc. in coordination with their Youth Provider, Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS, Inc.), operates four (4) Work Experience Programs per program year, which includes the following: The Summer Work Program, The Fall Work Program, The Winter Work Program and The Spring Work Program. Eligible youth, ages 14-24, who reside in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler counties have the opportunity to participate in all four (4) of the Work Experience Programs.

The main purpose of the Youth Work Experience Programs are to help youth understand how to conduct themselves in a professional workplace and what skills are necessary for them to keep a job. Each Work Experience Program a Youth participates in, will continue to expose them to realistic working conditions, as well as what skills will be required to keep that job.



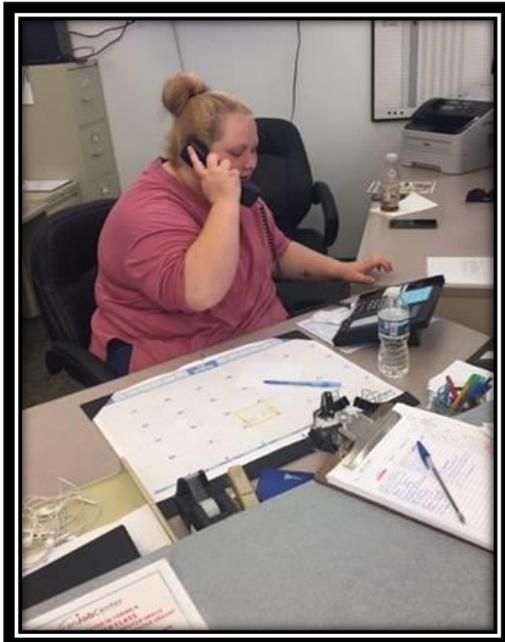
**Tyler Crook – Marshall County  
Animal Shelter**

If you are a West Virginia employer interested in offering our youth participants an opportunity to gain Work Experience, please contact Jill Eddy, YSS, Inc., at 304-233-9627.



The NPWDB, Inc. would like to thank all County Commissioners, NPWDB, Inc. Board of Directors, YSS, Inc. and participating youth for making the 2019 Work Experience Programs so successful!

\*\*\* Rick Smith, a recent Weir High School graduate, walked into the Weirton American Job Center on June 8, 2017 looking for some guidance on how they could help him. He lived at home with his parents and younger brother, and was working as a dishwasher/busser at Mario's Restaurant in downtown Weirton.



**Carissa Robinson – Wheeling American  
Job Center**

Rick was provided an orientation that same day, which explained our Programs and Services. He let the AJC staff know that he was interested in attending Rosedale Technical College to become an Electrical Technician. After completing his Orientation, Rick did all that he needed to do to secure the WIOA funding, for the Individual Training Account (ITA) Program, to attend Rosedale Technical College.

Rick started his training at Rosedale Technical College on October 2, 2017. He completed his training on January 31, 2019, and received his Associate's

Degree as an Electrical Technician. One week later, he received a job offer at Arcelor Mittal, located in Weirton, as a Maintenance Technician Electrician (MTE). He got the job and his first day of work was on February 11, 2019. He let his Case Manager know that he is still very happy at his job and added, "I'm receiving benefits that include a 401K and pension. I'm very grateful that the AJC was able to help me succeed." He was recently able to purchase his very own home located in Colliers.  
Congratulations Rick Smith!

\*\*\* Britni Recinella was referred to the American Job Center by one of our Partnering Agencies. Britni was a single parent, unemployed, who was supporting herself and son with HUD, Child Support, SNAP and assistance from her grandfather.

Britni visited the Weirton American Job Center on December 8, 2017 where she received an Orientation and let the staff know that she was very interested in obtaining a degree in Business Administration. She let the Staff know that she was determined to give her son a better life and wanted to be a positive role model for him, without the need to be dependent on public assistance. Britni was approved for WIOA funding, ITA Program, and started her new journey at West Virginia Northern Community College (WVNCC) on January 17, 2018 in Business Administration. Britni had started her internship at the Hancock County Commission Office on May 1, 2019. Britni graduated with her Associate's Degree from WVNCC on May

10, 2019 and let her Case Manager know that she had made plans to enroll at West Liberty University (WLU) for the Fall term to continue her education. Britni excelled at her internship at the Commission Office and they encouraged her to apply for the open position with the Hancock County Parks and Recreation, as the Park Administrator. She did apply and was offered the position immediately.

Britni is currently pursuing her Master's Degree at WLU, in Business Administration, and is still employed at the Hancock County Parks and Recreation, as their Park Administrator. Congratulations Britni! We wish you continued success as you complete your Master's Degree.

To find out more about how the American Job Center and our WIOA Programs and Services can help you achieve your own success, please visit one of our conveniently located Centers.  
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***"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."***

**~Michael Jordan**

## **AMERICAN JOB CENTER TRAFFIC REPORT PROGRAM YTD**

(WIOA Program Year 7/01/2019 through  
6/30/2020)

### **WHEELING**

New Customers: 64  
Repeat Customers: 2,152

### **WEIRTON**

New Customers: 37  
Repeat Customers: 214

### **NEW MARTINSVILLE**

New Customers: 21  
Repeat Customers: 693

### **GRAND TOTALS**

New Customers: 122  
Repeat Customers: 3,059



## **NEW EMPLOYEES**

### **Candice Meade**

**American Job Center Manager**

### **Kayleah Wilhelm**

**Customer Service Facilitator**

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Tate Blanchard**

**Director of Marketing & Community  
Outreach IC Care**

## **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](mailto:npwibinc@gmail.com) or by phone at 304-231-1170.

***"Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It's quite simple, really: Double your rate of failure. You are thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it isn't at all. You can be discouraged by failure or you can learn from it, so go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because remember that's where you will find success."***

**~Thomas J. Watson**

**FREE COMPUTER CLASSES**  
**AT REGIONAL AMERICAN**  
**JOB CENTERS**



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: Weirton – Kimbre Davis at 304-723-5337; Wheeling – Kayleah Wilhelm at 304-232-6280; and New Martinsville – April Postlethwait at 304-455-6184.



**The NPWDB, Inc. Staff wish you  
a Happy, Healthy and  
Prosperous 2020!**

***"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 cliches but real tools you need no matter what you do in life to stay focused on your path."***  
**~Phillip Sweet**

# **NPWDB, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR PY2019-2020**

## **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 Gruzinskas**- *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**  
**Tate Blanchard**

### **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**

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.