



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Risa B. Hoag, Harquin Creative, 845-627-3000, risabh@gmail.com

**WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD SPONSORS
TALENT SHORTAGE SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 24 AT MOUNT VERNON CAREER CENTER**

- **46% of US Employers Report Difficulty Filling Jobs with Qualified Candidates**
- **“Demand for recruiting, training and staffing services continues to grow as labor markets tighten,” Thom Kleiner, Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board**
- **High Level Learning & Discussion Symposium for Staffing, Training & Recruiting Professions, OCTOBER 24, 9 AM – 11:30 AM**

Mount Vernon, NY, OCT 24, 2018 – Nearly half (46%) of U.S. employers report difficulty filling jobs with qualified candidates, according to the Manpower Group 2018 Talent Shortage Survey.

To help staffing, training and recruiting professionals, the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board will present a high-level learning and discussion symposium, October 24, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM at the Mount Vernon Career Center (130 Mount Vernon Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY, 10550).

The event will host professional panelists from recruiting, workforce development, colleges, economic development, and area businesses to help address the current talent shortage.

“Demand for recruiting, training and staffing services continues to grow as labor markets tighten and companies place a higher strategic focus on customized talent and training,” says Thom Kleiner, Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board.

“Economic Development has traditionally focused on creating jobs while workforce development focuses on getting people jobs and developing their skills to increase their earnings. We are excited to be partnering closely and collaborating across disciplines to discuss and find solutions to the talent shortage and skills gaps as this is crucially important to the

economic viability of Westchester County,” adds Bridget Gibbons, Director, Westchester County Office of Economic Development

“It’s important to bring together experts from government, staffing services, secondary and higher education, and the private sector to dive into the talent shortage topic,” explains Dr. LaTasha Hamlett-Carver, Program Specialist, “and brainstorm solutions for organizations to meet their demands for sourcing qualified staff and training existing employees to increase productivity or gain new skills to meet shifting demand.”

Employers of all sizes and sectors are invited for this free symposium on October 24th to discuss and learn how the Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network, Express Employment Professionals and local colleges are joining forces to address the talent gap and provide career paths with state-of-the-art technology, innovative training approaches, resources and services to youth, adults and employers.

Following the Overview of Career Center Services, attendees will participate in a Panel Discussion on the Talent Shortage moderated by **Allison Madison**, *President*, Madison Approach Staffing. Members of the panel representing all facets of local workforce development are: **Bridget Gibbons**, Director, Westchester County Office of Economic Development; **Thom Kleiner**, Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board; **Dr. Sterling Jasper**, Owner, Express Employment Professionals; **Jeanne Maloney**, Assistant Dean Workforce, Westchester Community College; **Orane Barrett**, Kool Nerd Club; and **Joseph DiCarlo**, MBA, SPHR, Chief Talent and Engagement Office, WESTMED Practice.

Recently, Whole Foods, FedEx, UPS, Stop & Shop, WestCOP, and even the U.S. Postal Service, have all turned to the Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network—which includes locations in White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel—to host on-site job fairs to connect job seekers to employers.

To RSVP: <https://talent-shortage-symposium.eventbrite.com>; 914-813-6193; www.westchesterputnamonestop.com; MVCC, 130 Mount Vernon Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY, 10550

Media Contact: For additional information and interviews with Westchester Putnam Workforce Career Center Risa B. Hoag, risabh@gmail.com , Phone: 914-996-8100

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A proud partner of the American Job Center network

THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WPWDB) is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the “Career Center Network” to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices. The “Network” is made up of four Career Centers (White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel) as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults and employers. For more information, visit www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

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WESTCHESTER COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, The Office of Economic Development works to improve the County’s economic well-being and quality of life. This includes a broad range of activities to attract, create and retain jobs, and to foster a resilient, pro-growth and inclusive economy. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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