2018~2019 ANNUAL REPORT

REACHING FOR NEW HORIZONS











A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network

leadership

George Latimer

Westchester County Executive

The theme of this year's annual meeting, "Reaching for New Horizons," speaks to the commitment of the Workforce Board and the County to engage and nurture a robust workforce to take advantage of the myriad of employment opportunities Westchester has to offer. While our unemployment rate is at a record low, there are still residents who urgently need our help to enter the workforce or advance in their chosen field. This is particularly true in the S.T.E.M. and S.T.E.A.M. fields where lack of basic



skills has held back residents who need to populate occupations that will drive the economy in the coming years. Regeneron has set a standard for biotechnical research and innovation, and has also been a valued community partner, working with local schools to promote S.T.E.M. education and to encourage participation by our young residents so they will be able to fill the jobs of the future. We thank them for hosting the Annual Meeting this year and for all they do for Westchester and the Hudson Valley region. We also thank the members of the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board and the staffs of the Career Center Network for their commitment to building the workforce of the future.

MaryEllen Odell

Putnam County Executive

Putnam County, though smaller than our West-chester partner on the Workforce Board, faces some of the same challenges as our neighbor. We want to provide our workforce with the tools they need to be competitive in the new economy. That includes providing our young people with the information needed to get excited about the S.T.E.A.M. careers of the future and providing them with the skills to be successful in those technologically-rich occupations. I'm proud that the Putnam County School System continues to offer Grades



1–5 S.T.E.A.M Summer Camp. Regeneron provides a great example of how a biotechnology company can be successful, and also how a successful business can be a great community partner. We're honored to be hosted by them at the Annual Meeting. We also appreciate the work of our Carmel Career Center staff and all the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board members who are such an important part of the success of our workforce in our two counties.

Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network Management Team

Marie Daly—Westchester-Putnam Career Center Manager (Carmel) Atul Sheffey— NYS Department of Labor (DOL), Career Center Manager (Carmel, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and White Plains)

Ali Tarchoun—WPWDB Manager 1

OJ Yizar—Westchester-Putnam Career Center Manager (White Plains and Mount Vernon)

Thom Kleiner

Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board

Over this past year, our Career Center staff has taken a leadership role in convening high-level discussions on the critical issues facing workforce development in the Lower Hudson Valley—talent shortages, skills gaps, and reaching our young people to prepare them for the careers of the future. All this has been in addition to their "regular" work serving Westchester and Putnam job seekers and employers. We served over 7,000 customers, despite the reported low unemployment rates. More time has been devoted to serving those with barriers to employment and we have become more knowledgeable about working with and advocating for individuals with



disabilities. Staff has worked diligently to secure a number of grants that have enhanced the employment possibilities of our workforce. The Ready to Work/Jobs Waiting grant, which will formally come to an end in October, has succeeded in placing over 365 job seekers in employment, particularly in healthcare. The TechHire program—targeted to assist those 17–29 with barriers to employment—placed 110 people in jobs in the first phase of the grant program. TechHire graduations are truly inspirational; students are so obviously appreciative of the five-week "boot camps" that enhance their life skills and employment prospects. The LEAP program, which served those who are incarcerated or recently released, had great success helping a population often difficult to serve. Credit goes to our staff and community partners for making all this happen. We also worked closely with Bridget Gibbons, Westchester's Economic Development Director, to continue to build our economic development partnerships to better serve the business needs of the county and the region. Special thanks to the members of the Workforce Development Board, who have shown terrific engagement in Board activities over the past year, all members of the Career Center staff, and all our community partners. We build toward new horizons together!

David Singer

Chair, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board

The Workforce Development Board is committed to its mission to ensure the local workforce meets the needs of employers both today and in the future. We continuously looking for new ways to assist our customers and to effectively work with our partner agencies to deliver seamless and efficient services. Over the past year, the Board focused on the "Middle Skills Gap" in two programs entitled "Talent Shortage Symposia," held at the Mount Vernon Career Center in October and the White Plains High School in May. The focus was to identify the needs of businesses, the talent shortages that exist, and what is being done by local high schools and higher education institutions to fill



these shortages. The first panel identified the critical shortages that exist in many professions. The second focused on the degree to which parents, teachers, and administrators need to work together to communicate and support alternative career pathways for young people. It was agreed that more information needs to be imparted to students earlier in their education, to advise them of the options available to them and not focus exclusively on the pursuit of four-year college programs. The WPWDB intends to collaborate with our regional workforce boards to construct a proposal in response to Governor Cuomo's \$750 million Workforce Development Initiative that will address the long-term employment needs of our residents and the region-wide skills gap that we hope will put us in an excellent position to meet the needs of our workforce. I thank the Board Members for their continued dedication to our mission and congratulate the Career Center staff and all partner organizations on a job well done during the 2018–19 Program Year!

Career Center Partners are primary deliverers of service to local Network customers and in many cases are co-located within the centers themselves. They work in cooperation to provide expanded services with the goal to provide high quality, seamless service to our customers regardless of need.

Network Partners

- Westchester County Department of Social Services
- New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions
- Putnam Department of Social Services
- Adult Education—New York State Education Department
- ACCES-VR—Career and Continuing Education Services
- New York State Commission for the Blind
- Office of Children and Family Services
- Westchester County Senior Community Service Employment Programs
- New York State Office for the Aging
- Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (WestCOP)
- Westchester Community College
- Urban League of Westchester
- Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES
- Southern Westchester BOCES

the workforce board

The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board (WPWDB) is comprised of leaders and staff of local businesses, state and county government agencies, non-profits, and public education who volunteer their time to work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the Career Center Network. The WPWDB provides policy directions and program oversight to the Career Centers and workforce development programs and is appointed by Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

Current Board Members Not Pictured: Claudia Murphy, Director, Southern Westchester BOCES | Len Vallender, President, Fenbar Precision Machinists, Inc.



Amy Allen, Vice President, Westchester County Association



Rosa Barksdale, Board V ice-Chair; CEO, Barksdale Home Services



James Bernardo, President, Candela Systems Corporation



Thomas Capurso, Business Representative, IBEW Local Union 3



Edward Cooke, Council Representative, Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters



Bridget Gibbons, Director of Economic Development, Westchester County



Dr. Marsha Gordon, President/ CEO, The Business Council of Westchester (BCW)



Michele Green, Integrated Employment Specialist, ACCES-VR



Richard Greenwald, President, Concorde Personnel Temporary Staffing



Wiley Harrison, President, Business of Your Business, LLC



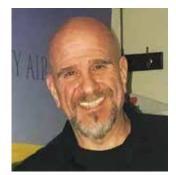
DaMia Harris-Madden, Executive Director, Westchester County Youth Bureau



Allison Madison, President, Madison Approach Staffing



Daniel Magnus, President, Elevation Burger



Anthony Marmo, President, Clover Heating & Cooling



Kevin McGuire, Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Social Services



Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Westchester Community College



Matthew Pepe, Assistant President, Construction Industry Council



Michael Piazza, Commissioner, Putnam County Department of Social Services



Karl Rhode, Director, Putnam County Veteran Service Agency



Robert O. Sanders, CEO, Hospitality Resource Group Inc.



James D. Schutzer, Vice President, J.D. Moschitto & Associates, Inc.



Atul Sheffey, Center Manager, Carmel, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and White Plains, NYS DOL



Richard St. Paul, CEO/President, Law Office of Richard St. Paul, Esq. PLLC



Regina Thomas, Senior Director, Talent Acquisition and University Relations, Regeneron

Thank you to the following board members for their service for the Program Year 2018~19:

Joseph DiCarlo, Former Senior VP, HR WESTMED Practice Partners

Natalie Griffith, Former Human Resources Manager, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.











Thank you to our moderators and panelists:

- Bridget Gibbons, Director, Westchester County Office of Economic Development;
- Thom Kleiner, Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board;
- Dr. Michael Baston, President, Rockland Community College;
- Dr. Joseph Ricca, Superintendent of Schools, White Plains Public Schools;
- **Dr. LaTasha Hamlett-Carver**, Career Center Program Specialist;
- **Dr. Sterling Jasper**, Owner, Express Employment Professionals;
- **Teresita B. Wisell**, Vice President, Workforce Development and Community Engagement, Westchester Community College;
- **Jeanne Maloney**, Assistant Dean Workforce, Westchester Community College;
- Allison Madison, President, Madison Approach Staffing;
- Carolyn Chieco, High School Guidance Counselor and Consultant;
- Daniel Bonnet, Deputy Executive Director, Center for College & Careers at the Guidance Center of Westchester;
- Orane Barrett, Chief Executive, Kool Nerd Club;
- Joseph DiCarlo, MBA, SPHR, Former Chief Talent and Engagement Office, WESTMED Practice Partners



WPWDB Leads "Talent Shortage" Discussions

career pathways becomes a movement

The WPWDB took a leadership role in convening experts, forward thinkers, and organizations on the front lines of workforce development to identify and discuss critical issues such as the talent shortage, middle skills gaps, and alternative career pathways, particularly in S.T.E.A.M. and other in-demand sectors. Central to these discussions is "Career Pathways," a series of organized steps with multiple entry and exit points that lead an individual to a higher paying job through stackable credentials obtained from technical schools, community colleges, and institutions that confer advanced degrees. The goal is to educate youth and adults about these pathways, and to work with employers to ensure the recommended credentials meet local workforce needs.

recent initiatives:

- The WPWDB held two Symposia in the form of panel discussions. The purpose was to convene experts to discuss big picture issues surrounding the skills gap and talent shortage. The first panel entitled, The Talent Shortage Symposium, was held on October 24, 2018 at the Mount Vernon Career Center with over **75** attendees participating in the conversation. Highlights included solutions for instilling soft skills
 - in youth, communicating middle skill career options that do not require a 4-year degree earlier in students' academic life, and encouraging students to explore their passions and turn them into careers. The audience concluded that this important topic should continue with education professionals to address systemic problems.
- On May 20, 2019, the second symposium, entitled Exploring Alternative Career Pathways, took place at White Plains High School with over 120 in attendance, including many education professionals. Middle skills jobs are expected to comprise 45% of jobs through 2024 yet many students and parents remain unaware of the options available to them. The conversation focused on how to reduce the stigma for students who choose an alternative path and how to expand awareness of the multiple tracks that require stacking credentials earned at community colleges, technical and vocational schools that lead to good living-wage jobs.
- Thom Kleiner participated in the S.T.E.M.-Literate Workforce Panel held at the African American Men of Westchester Breakfast on November 2, 2018. This panel focused on the need to expose middle and high school students to S.T.E.M. careers.

Talent Shortage

W July 31

Symposium

M July 1	
T July 2	
W July 3	
Th July 4 J	ndependence Day / Offices Closed
F July 5	
S July 6	
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T July 30	













Career Center Network

what is it?

The "Network" is made up of four Career Centers located in **Carmel, Mount Vernon, Peekskill**, and **White Plains** that are primarily staffed by Westchester County, Putnam County, and New York State Department of Labor employees to provide free state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults, and employers. The Career Centers serve as the physical locations where the public can visit to take free workshops, attend job fairs, conduct job searches, attend seminars, meet with employment counselors, receive services, and access resources. The Network also includes partner agencies that work in cooperation to provide expanded services to job seekers and employers.

recent initiatives:

- The Mount Vernon Career Center ribbon-cutting took place on September 28, 2018.
- Regular monthly meetings are held between the Career Center and DOL Managers and the Operator to review processes, coordinate communication, and ensure functional alignment in the delivery of services. A few examples include streamlining the customer registration and customer survey forms; distilling statistics into a concise Performance Measure Stats Summary to share at staff meetings; and creating a Grant Summary to keep Career Center employees informed on the status of and eligibilty requirements for active grants.
- Training was provided on the topics of "Improved Service for the Disabled Workforce" and "Customer Service." Michele Green of ACCES-VR conducted multiple training sessions in the Network, educating staff on how to interact with people who have both visible and undisclosed disabilities along with tips on how to change the mindset of employers regarding the value disabled individuals can bring to the workforce.
- Community initiatives were organized and supported, including: Domestic Violence Awareness, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive, Career Closet Professional Clothing Drive, and Mentoring Days.

results summary:

The Carmel, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and White Plains Career Centers served **7,288** individuals during the program year, which includes **5,868** who received UI benefits and **165** veterans. At the White Plains and Mount Vernon Career Centers, **3,406** attended a job readiness workshop, **1,787** customers attended a computer workshop, and **145** attended ESL classes with over **840** orientations conducted.

August 2019

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Th Aug 29
F Aug 30
S Aug 31



Job Seekers Damion, Dana, and Devon attend Mount Vernon Career Center Job Fair.

Business & Community Engagement Team

what is it?

The Business and Community Engagement Team's primary focus is reaching out to the Westchester-Putnam business community to enroll employers in all sectors who can help hire, train, and retrain employees. The Team coordinates with the **Department of Labor Business Team** and **Carmel Red Carpet Team** to sync event calendars, organize job fairs, create marketing materials, share leads, as well as promote employment opportunities to all customers. The Team also participates with the **DOL Rapid Response Team** to help recently laid off and soon to be laid off employees find employment.

It is also the Team's role to reach out and recruit employers within the 7 designated sectors (Advanced Manufacturing, Biotech, Green, Healthcare, Hospitality, Not-for-Profit, and Professional Services) and to promote and explain **On-the-Job Training (OJT)**, **Customized Incumbent Worker Training (CIWT)**, and provide technical assistance in accessing training reimbursement funds.

recent initiatives:

- On-site job fairs have increased and provided an opportunity for job seekers to meet employers face-to-face. The job fairs feature multiple employers, and job seekers are advised by Career Center staff on interview techniques, resume preparation, and professional dress. Employers appreciate the opportunity to connect with many job seekers at one time and sometimes hire people on the spot. The Team recruited 242 employers, and held over 20 job fairs with over 1,100 job openings, and 1,000 plus job seekers.
- The Team was central to many partnerships including one with DACK Consulting, Trinity Financial,
 City of White Plains Housing Authority, Westchester Community College, City of White Plains
 Planning Department, City of White Plains NAACP, and the White Plains Education and Training
 Center to assist residents gaining employment as laborers, plumbers, and electricians on the
 Brookfield Commons Project in White Plains.
- 35 businesses have executed Business Service Training contracts.
- The Team also participated in many events, including WEXPO, The GROW Conference, ConXpo, and Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce functions.

program lead: Linda McKinzie-Daughtery at lqmj@westchestergov.com (914) 813-7334

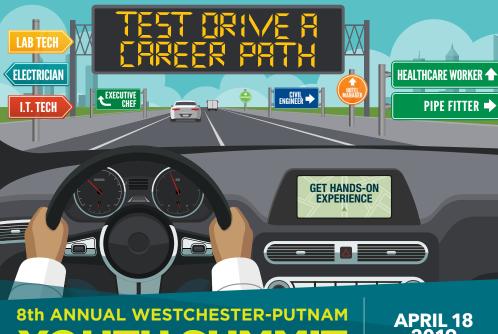
September 2019

S	Sept	1	
M	Sept	2	Labor Day / Offices Closed
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YOUTH SUMMIT

APRIL 18 2019



Westchester Development Academy for Youth

what is it?

Westchester Development Academy for Youth (WDAY) is a year-round program that provides educational and employment services to eligible youth ages 14-24 through designated youth program operators throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. The program is designed to provide resources and services to in-school youth (ISY) and out-of-school youth (OSY) that help them achieve a diploma/high school equivalency diploma, explore career opportunities, enroll in higher education, and/or obtain employment. Currently there are 81 ISY and 200 OSY enrolled with six providers: Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, Southern Westchester BOCES, Westhab, Inc., City of

Mount Vernon Youth Bureau, City of White Plains Youth Bureau, Children's Village, and The Guidance Center of Westchester.

recent initiatives:

- More than 300 students and business leaders participated in the 8th Annual Westchester-Putnam Youth Summit on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. This year's theme was "Test Drive a Career Path" with workshops designed to pique interest and provide real-world information in the sectors of Aviation, Healthcare, Technology, Hospitality/Culinary, and Skilled Trades such as construction, plumbing, and electrical. The day's agenda was filled with team-building activities like the Road Race Challenge, workshops, motivational speakers, career commercial breaks, and a College & Career/Job Fair. Employers and professionals played a crucial role, volunteering as mentors, table facilitators, and workshop leaders.
- Internships and Work Shadowing: The WPWDB, in conjunction with the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), identified employers to provide youth with meaningful work experience opportunities that will continue to sharpen their skills, and gain the exposure and experience needed to thrive. Youth from the WDAY program visited Con Ed Solutions in Valhalla for a job shadow experience. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the company as well a variety of career pathways. The youth enjoyed the experience and the inside peek at an industry and career they had not previously been exposed to. They were surprised to find out there was more to the company than just providing electricity.

program team: Ali Tarchoun at att1@westchestergov.com (914) 995-7580 Allison Jones at alw3@westchestergov.com (914) 813-6153 Chima Monday at camt@westchestergov.org (914) 813-6562 Ebony White at ewhite@thebcw.org (914) 948-2110

October 2019

T	Oct	1	
W	Oct	2	
Th	Oct	3	
F	Oct	4	
S	Oct	5	
S	Oct	6	
M	Oct	7	Columbus Day / Offices Closed
T	Oct	8	
W	Oct	9	
Th	Oct	10	
F	Oct	11	
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WDAY / READI

what is it?

In November 2011, the WPWDB appointed an ad hoc committee to examine the attributes that businesses look for when they hire youth and to develop a strategy for helping teens prepare for the work experience. The result was the creation of **READI**—a soft skills, work attributes curriculum whose acronym stands for **Respect-Enthusiasm-Articulate-Dependable-Initiative**. The interactive READI curriculum is taught over several weeks to students to prepare them for the workforce.



Westchester's Youth are getting Workforce READI!

recent initiatives:

- On June 27, 2018, the WPWDB, My Brother's Keeper Challenge, Westchester Children's
 Association, and The Guidance Center of Westchester hosted an official launch and press
 conference for the READI program in New Rochelle. Additional stakeholder partners included
 Councilmen Jared Rice's Office, New Rochelle High School, New Rochelle Youth Bureau,
 Westhab, Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs of New Rochelle, New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce,
 and The Westchester Bank.
- Staff at Mount Vernon High School received READI training in May 2019 with the intention of training students during the 2019–20 school year.
- READI was utilized at the 2019 Youth Summit.
- Westchester Children's Association recently received a \$5,000 grant from The Westchester
 Bank, which they will use to elevate and propel public relations for the READI program. WCA is
 also developing analytics to judge the effectiveness of READI with pre- and post-READI surveys
 and compiling lists of all youth who have undertaken the program as well as trainers who have
 delivered it.
- The Guidance Center of Westchester partnered with the New Rochelle High School Business
 Department for a two-day training using the READI curriculum to teach students soft skills in their business classes. The training culminated in a job fair with 120+ students participating and using their recently acquired skills.

how to participate:

READI is a grass roots effort and is available to any organization willing to get trained to deliver the curriculum to youth. We encourage you to reach out to learn more:

Allison Jones at alw3@westchestergov.com (914) 813-6153

November 2019

F	Nov	1	
S	Nov	2	
S	Nov	3	
M	Nov	4	
T	Nov	5	Election Day (Office Closed)
W	Nov	6	
Th	Nov	7	
F	Nov	8	
S	Nov	9	
S	Nov 1	0	
M	Nov 1	1	Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
T	Nov 1	2	
W	Nov 1	3	
Th	Nov 1	4	
F	Nov 1	5	
S	Nov 1	6	
S	Nov 1	7	
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S	Nov 2	23	
S	Nov 2	24	
M	Nov 2	25	
T	Nov 2	26	
W	Nov 2	27	
Th	Nov 2	8	Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)
F	Nov 2	9	Thanksgiving Friday (Offices Closed)
S	Nov 3	30	

Calling all employers

To post a summer jobs.com





WDAY / Summer Youth Employment Initiatives

what is it?

The WPWDB summer youth employment programs help youth obtain valuable workforce experience while spending their time in a safe, productive way. Some of these initiatives provide subsidized wages for youth who work at selected employers during the summer, and often include job readiness training and other support. Employment for youth is secured through a variety of programs and partners that have distinct and overlapping eligibility requirements.

current initiatives

- Private Sector Summer Employment: The WPWDB, in conjunction with The Business Council of Westchester (BCW), coordinates a summer employment program with the goal of connecting 225 young adults with local employers. Youth agencies pre-screen and help prepare youth for jobs. The BCW reaches out to employers to identify employment opportunities and assists in making appropriate connections.
- Foster Care Summer Employment: Sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Social Services to provide summer employment for **50** foster care program youth ages 16–24 who reside in Westchester County. The summer jobs are located in County operated parks, swimming pools, golf courses, and Playland.
- TANF Summer Employment Program: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Summer
 Employment Program provides subsidized job opportunities for youth ages 14–21 who meet TANF
 eligibility guidelines. Over 300 youth are placed in jobs in the private sector, public, and non-profit
 worksites during the summer months.

how to participate:

 Assist with connections/referrals of our youth to employers who may have expressed interest in mentoring, job shadowing, or internships. Enroll as an employer and post a job at www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

program leads: Ali Tarchoun at att1@westchestergov.com (914) 995-7580
Allison Jones at alw3@westchestergov.com (914) 813-6153
Ebony White at ewhite@thebcw.org (914) 948-2110

December 2019

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Th	Dec 19	
F	Dec 20	
S	Dec 21	
S	Dec 22	
M	Dec 23	
T	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
W	Dec 25	Christmas Day / Offices Closed
Th	Dec 26	
F	Dec 27	
S	Dec 28	
S	Dec 29	
M	Dec 30	
T	Dec 31	New Year's Eve

Are you ready for a new career opportunity in a growing industry?

You may qualify for subsidized job readiness training.



Healthcare

Information Technology

It's tough to regroup after experiencing a layoff or termination due to an economic downturn or industry change. We want you to know—you are not alone, we understand and are here to help. The Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network is actively recruiting dislocated workers interested in receiving job readiness training in the expanding fields of Healthcare, Information Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing. These industries are rapidly growing and searching for individuals ready to learn new skills and work hard. To find out more contact our career coaches today. Eligibility requirements apply.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Advanced Manufacturing

Westchester-Putnam
Career Center Network
Call: (914) 813-7342
Email: Igha@westchestergov.com
westchesterputnamonestep.com

Dislocated Worker Definition Reference: WIOA Sec. 3(15) and TEGL1 19-16

Completed Grants

YouthBuild provided a program of education and employment to 80 total eligible youth from the Cities of Peekskill, Yonkers and Mount Vernon. PNWBOCES was responsible for 20 participants in the Peekskill area while WestCOP was responsible for 60 participants in Mount Vernon and Yonkers. The grant concluded April 30, 2019. All of the remaining participants from the last cohort are in follow-up and staff will continue to obtain documents to verify employment retention and/or educational placements.

LEAP (Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships) was a grant funded workforce re-entry and job training services for soon-to-be-released incarcerated adults, using the

STRIVE model. The grant concluded on December 31, 2018. Enrollment Goal: 70 / Actual 112 = 130%; Placement in Education or Training Goal: 40 / Actual 52 = 130%; Retention in Education or Training Goal: 36 / Actual 46 = 127%.

Career Pathways II provided economically disadvantaged residents who were receiving public assistance and met the TANF requirements with job readiness preparation, support, and training services. WPWDB was a subrecipient under the grant recipient and lead agency WestCOP. The grant concluded March 31, 2019.

Enrollment Goal 14 / **Actual 14 = 100%**; Employment Goal 8 / **Actual 8 = 100%**; 60 Day Retention in Employment Goal 7 / **Actual 7 = 100%**; 120 Day Retention in Employment Goal 7 / **Actual 5 = 71%**.

STRIVE Forward was a job-readiness program for at risk youth particularly those with multiple barriers to employment. This program provided workforce employment services for **122** eligible participants; **78** of the 122 enrolled participants graduated from the program. Westhab, Inc. provided the services on behalf of the WPWDB. The grant concluded September 30, 2018.

Grants Help Extend Program Services

The WPWDB has been extremely effective in expanding its ability to deliver much needed programs to the workforce through grant funds. The WPWDB received three new grants during the 2018–19 Program Year, two from the U.S. Department of Labor and one from the New York State Department of Labor. While each grant has different eligibility criteria, they all share the overarching goal of building the local workforce to meet the demands of high-growth employment sectors and assisting individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment, in building skills and gaining credentials that will lead to re-entry and long-term employment.

Ongoing Grants

- STRIVE Future Leaders Re-Entry Project targets young adults ages 18–24 within the justice
 system in the City of Yonkers. The project helps these youth find jobs and achieve a lifetime of
 employability. This program is in partnership with Westhab.
- Jobs Waiting is a regional project with workforce development boards and career centers located in Dutchess, Orange, Yonkers, Sullivan, Rockland, Ulster, and Westchester Counties. See page 20 for details.
- Volunteers Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) The VITA program prepares federal and state tax returns for taxpayers to take advantage of Earned Income Tax Credits. See page 26 for details.

New Grants

- The Unemployed Worker Training Program seeks to prepare eligible individuals for jobs as Certified Nursing Assistants and Patient Care Technicians. Eligibility is focused on long-term unemployed individuals, those who are TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligible or have been formerly incarcerated.
- The Trade and Economic Transition Dislocated Worker Grant seeks to transform the local economy by providing job readiness and vocational training for healthcare, high tech manufacturing, and information technology sectors. All categories of Dislocated Workers are eligible.
- The National Health Emergency Phase Two: Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant seeks to address the opioid crisis by providing funds for employment and training activities and supportive services to address economic and workforce impacts related to opioid use, addiction, and overdose. The grant also seeks to encourage individuals to enter professions that could provide relief to those affected by the crisis: mental health, addiction treatment services, and pain management services.

January 2020

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Jamar Clarke— "In the last five weeks with Jobs Waiting, I plotted my five-year career path. I'm excited to start my new internship with a digital content agency."



Catherine Hernandez-Navaro—"Jobs Waiting gave me new confidence and purpose. I finally feel like I can breathe."



Luis Ramirez—"The last thing I wanted to do was go into debt for a college degree I wasn't sure of. I really appreciate finding a program like Jobs Waiting."

Stats

Ready to Work

Participants Enrolled 494

ITAs 463

Completed Job Readiness Training 271

Received Degree/Credential 203

Job Placement 365

Work Tryout 89

OJT 56

CIWT 129

Businesses Engaged 864

Jobs Developed 4,427

Tech Hire

Age 17-29 Recruited 241

Underemployed Workers Recruited 59

Total Enrolled to Date 300

Completed Job Readiness Training 295

Received Degree/Credential 73

Job Placement 110

Retention in Education/Employment 107

The Jobs Waiting Grants are Changing Lives

what is it?

The U.S. Department of Labor funded the **Jobs Waiting** grants to support and expand public-private partnerships that help long-term unemployed individuals get back to work. The grants provide funding for short and long-term training, support, and specialized services leading to employment in middle and high-skilled jobs. The WPWDB has two grants under Jobs Waiting—**Ready to Work** and **TechHire**.

Ready to Work helps employers hire and train employees for high wage jobs in the healthcare industry. Participants attend a free six-week career readiness training program called Bootcamp to prepare them for work and/or advanced training. Job seekers are assigned to a career coach who provides one-on-one counseling, and experienced job developers help to position and promote Bootcamp graduates to employers throughout the Hudson Valley. The grants are active until October 31, 2019.

The **TechHire** grant funds the implementation of career pathways focused on the training and employment of 400 low-income individuals (75%, or 300, ages 17–29) in fast-growing industries in the region, including advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, healthcare, and information technology. The grants are active until June 30, 2020.

results to date:

The **Ready to Work** grant program is among the most successful in the nation. More than **494** people were recruited, **21** Bootcamps were held, and **203** people earned healthcare certifications or credentials — more than any other grantee in the region. **365** participants were hired, and **79%** of the employed participants are now working full-time. Additionally, over **\$2 million** has been disbursed to employers for paid "work tryouts," customized training for existing employees, and On-the-Job Training (OJT).

Within the **TechHire** grant, **241** individuals age 17–29 have been recruited with **295** completing their first job readiness training. Forty of those trained have received a degree or a credential and **110** have obtained employment.

Program lead: Ali Tarchoun at att1@westchestergov.com (914) 995-7580 **LaTasha Hamlett-Carver Ed.D.** at lqha@westchestergov.com

(914) 813-7333. For more information go to **Jobswaiting.com**.

February 2020

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ABOVE: Partner collaboration helped Rosa Ramirez, a retired veteran and first-time business owner, find the staff to launch Westchester's first Honey Baked Ham franchise in 2018. This cooperation led to 13 individuals being hired for the holidays and two offered permanent positions. BELOW: PUTNAM PARTNERSHIP MEETING, L—R BACK ROW— Amy Shapiro (Mahopac Library), Walezca Trzaskowski (PWP), Kristine Bunyea (WCC), Alyson Trudeau (PNWBOCES), Edie Garvey (Putnam County Housing), Judy Callahan (CAP), Vincent Sceri (Search for Change), Atul Sheffey (DOL), Alberto Ventura (DOL) Center—Janet Canaday, Kathy Mallon, and Marie Daly, Carmel Career Center Staff.



Participating partners were:

- ACCES-VR
- Business Council of Westchester
- Carmel (Putnam Partnership), Mount Vernon, and White Plains Career Centers
- City of Peekskill Youth Bureau
- Harquin (Network Operator)
- Jewish Board for Family and Children's Services
- Mount Vernon Youth Bureau
- NYS Commission for the Blind
- NYS Department of Labor
- Putnam County Department of Social Services
- Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES
- SER Westchester Department of Community Services
- Southern Westchester BOCFS
- The Children's Village
- The Guidance Center of Westchester
- The WPWDB
- Thomas H. Slater Center
- Town of Greenburgh
- Urban League of Westchester
- Westchester Community College
- Westchester Children's Association
- Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services
- Westchester County Department of Social Services
- WestCOP
- Westhab
- Westchester Library System
- White Plains Youth Bureau
- Yonkers Career Center

Partnership and Collaboration

WPWDB Partner Meeting

Throughout the 2018-19 Program Year, focus and effort was placed on improving collaboration, communication, and coordination among all the organizations that deliver services within the Career Center Network. On April 2, 2019 at the Mount Vernon Career Center, 26 individuals from 19 organizations gathered for a Partner Meeting, marking the first time such a breadth of organizations has attended a working and information session. What ensued was an incredible exchange of information and ideas and "asks and offers" to further improve coordination and delivery of services within the Career Center Network.

Thom Kleiner, WPWDB Executive Director, and **OJ Yizar**, Mount Vernon and White Plains Career Center Manager, informed the attendees about the Network's programs and services as well as mandates under WIOA. **Sherry Bruck**, the Network Operator, discussed the Operator's role as well as recent initiatives for efficiency and collaboration. Sherry distributed the Overview of Services and the WPWDB Program Board, which visually displays all of the WPWDB's programs and partners.

Each partner then had an opportunity to speak about their organization's activities and role in the Network and to share an "ask". This exchange of information resulted in spontaneous collaboration and even some "offers" from one partner to another. Detailed notes, handouts, and a full contact list of all participants were shared with all Network Partners, including those not able to attend. Work has commenced to respond to asks and suggestions.

• An example of the positive impact of collaboration among WPWDB Partners is illustrated by the successful launch of Westchester's first Honey Baked Ham franchise in the fall of 2018. Rosa Ramirez, a retired veteran and first-time business owner, was seeking employees for the holiday season but didn't know the best way to find candidates. She reached out to the Business Council of Westchester who connected her with Madison Approach Staffing, whose staff reached out to local agencies Children's Village, The Guidance Center, Westhab, and WestCOP with information about job openings and an upcoming job fair at the Mount Vernon Career Center. This cooperation led to 13 individuals being hired for the holidays and two being offered permanent positions.

March 2020

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Specialized Culinary Training Opportunity

Information Session October 3, 2018 - 10am Mount Vernon Career Center





promote serroscribio

- · Basic culinary techniques
- * ServSade Certification
- Soft skills—customer service.

 communications

The Westchester-Putnam Career Center Retwork in partnership with world renowned flik Hospitality Group, GE Management Development Institute, and Westchester Community College are offering a one-week Internive training course for specialized callings sith.

for more information and to 9500 contrate

LaTesha Hamlett-Carver at (914) 813-7333, ligha@westchestergev.com MVCC, 130 Mount Vernon Ave., Mount Vennon, NY 90550

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Workplace Education and Training

what is it?

Ongoing education for both employees and employers is made available through funding and partnerships with institutions like Westchester Community College and Southern Westchester BOCES. For **employers**, **Just Add One (JAO)** is a 12-week business academy funded by the WPWDB and held at the WCC Entrepreneurial Gateway Center that focuses on enhancing small business infrastructure through targeted trainings that help businesses to grow by adding at least one new employee to their payroll. **Employees** can close their skills gap and increase earning potential by applying for subsidized training through the use of Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) of up to \$3,000. ITAs can be "spent" for training at one the WPWDB's Eligible Training Providers, who are screened and approved to provide training to job seekers under the ITA program.

recent initiatives:

- The Just Add One Program has enrolled 80 small businesses over four years. The program
 provides classes on leadership, strategic planning, branding, customer services and human
 resources, finance, one-on-one coaching sessions, and peer-to-peer workshops to identify
 and solve business challenges.
- The WPWDB and the Office of Economic Development joined forces with Westchester Community College (WCC) to develop a Culinary Training Program to fast-track training for select Career Center clients to fill open positions for cooks, line servers, and front desk personnel at FLIK Hospitality Group. WCC hosted the 10-day session, which also included a full day of READI, a soff-skills job training program, at no cost to the trainees. Thanks to the partnership, 12 participants were interviewed and trained in a matter of weeks—a win win for both the employer and employees. More collaborative efforts are planned to help businesses find, train, and hire in a matter of weeks.
- The Career Center coordinated a recruiting and training effort between DACK Consulting, Trinity Financial, City of White Plains Housing Authority, WCC, City of White Plains Planning Department, City of White Plains NAACP and the White Plains Education and Training Center to help residents gain employment as laborers, plumbers, and electricians on the Brookfield Commons Project in White Plains. One of the criteria to be eligible for a position is a candidate must possess an OSHA 30 certification. The Career Center funded 20 candidates for OSHA 30 training provided by WCC.
- Career Center staff has also joined the Department of Labor's Rapid Response Team, which
 provides support to employers and workers affected by cutbacks and site closings.

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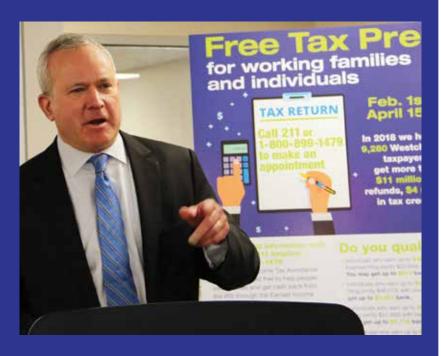
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Free Tax Prep

for individuals & families



Feb. 1st-April 15th

In 2018 we helped 9,280 Westchester taxpayers get more than \$11 million in refunds and \$4 million in tax credits.



Volunteers and staff celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the VITA program.





Volunteer tax preparers work hard to help taxpayers. Pictured are Larry Cowen and Wanda Amparo.

"I've been coming to get my taxes prepared for 5 years," stated Clarice McConnell of Mount Vernon. "I'm really grateful for this type of program."



Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Program

what is it?

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA)** celebrated its 15th year in Westchester in 2019, and 50th year nationally, by helping low- and middle-income individuals and families prepare their federal and state tax returns. Backed by funding from Westchester County Department of Social Services and the Internal Revenue Service, VITA helps residents take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and all tax credits for which they are eligible, including child and education tax credits. The program assists individuals and families, and increases tax revenue in the county as it is estimated that approximately 80% of refunds are spent locally, helping to boost the local economy.

The VITA campaign kicked off on February 1, 2019 at the Mount Vernon Career Center. OJ Yizar recognized collaborating partners who work diligently to coordinate the day-to-day appointments and operations—United Way 2-1-1, Volunteer NY, WestCOP, AARP, the IRS, Westchester County Government, Westchester Community College, Westchester Education Opportunity Center, Mercy College Westchester and Bronx Campus, Interfaith Council Association, and the Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network.

Working with agency partners, the WPWDB managed tax sites at the White Plains Career Center, Yonkers Educational Opportunity Center, Mount Vernon Career Center, Ossining High School, Westchester Community College, and Mercy College (Bronx).

2019 results:

For the 2018 tax year, **55 VITA volunteers** helped residents prepare and file 3,034 returns, an increase of 28% from 2017 tax year.

how to participate:

Volunteers are recruited in November and December for the following year's tax season. Those who pass the test and screening are trained in January. They are then scheduled at one of the WPWDB operated tax sites from February to April, filling roles such as greeters, tax preparers, translators, and call center operators. Anyone interested in volunteering can apply by calling 211 or 1-800-899-1479.

program lead: Victor Avedano at vaa3@westchestergov.com, (914) 995-3924

May 1 May 2 May 3 M May 4 T May 5 W May 6 Th May 7 F May 8 S May 9 S May 10 Mother's Day M May 11 T May 12 W May 13 Th May 14 F May 15_ **S** May 16 **S** May 17_ M May 18_ T May 19 W May 20 Th May 21 F May 22 S May 23 **S** May 24 M May 25 Memorial Day (Office Closed) T May 26 W May 27 Th May 28 F May 29 **S** May 30 **S** May 31

May 2020

























2018 Annual Meeting

On June 26, 2018, the WPWDB celebrated a successful year of collaboration between state and government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector to strengthen the skilled labor force in Westchester and Putnam counties at the Annual Meeting at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac.

The meeting theme—"Full Steam Ahead"—communicated the Board's ongoing mission to move forward with ambitious industry sector partnerships, programs and services, and events to build a robust workforce to attract and retain businesses. Keynote speaker Anthony Viceroy, Chief Executive Officer of Westmed Medical Group, discussed the business climate in the counties and the in-demand jobs in the healthcare sector.

Westchester County Executive **George Latimer** and Putnam County Executive **MaryEllen Odell** joined business, community youth organizations, civic, and educational leaders in a networking breakfast and mini expo of program offerings. Both county executives gave opening remarks to the full group highlighting their outlook and vision for building skilled workforces in the counties.

The Board recognized former Executive Director **Donnovan Beckford** for his significant contributions to building the WPWDB into one of the foremost organizations in public-private job skills development in New York State.



A highlight of the meeting was testimonials from three individuals who benefitted from the work of the WPWDB and its dedicated staff. **Claudia Collazo** spoke about the impact that The Guidance Center of Westchester had on her life by helping her to finish her high school education, gain confidence, and look toward college. **Kara Mac**, founder of Shoe Candy, discussed how the skills and confidence she gained as part of the Just Add One Business Academy allowed her to launch a successful business. **Nalini Addanki**, an adult learner at Westchester Community College, reviewed her path to reinvent herself and develop a new set of skills for today's workforce.

Additionally, the volunteers for the **VITA program** were recognized for their help in 2018's income tax preparation program that helps working families and individuals maximize their tax credits.

June | 2020

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collaborators & volunteers

The Coalition Members:

- Interfaith Council for Action (IFCA)
- Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)
- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- Mercy College
- Westchester County Department of **Consumer Affairs**
- Westchester Child Care Council
- United Way
- United Way 2-1-1 Hudson Valley Region
- Volunteer Center of United Way
- Internal Revenue Service
- Westchester Volunteer Center
- Westchester School Library System

Jobs Waiting Team:

- Workforce Development Boards & Career Centers; Yonkers, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess, Ulster and Westchester-Putnam.
- Westchester County Association
- Hospitality Resource Group
- Harrison Edwards
- The Workplace, Inc.

Library Partnerships

- Greenburgh Public
- Katonah Village Library
- North Castle Public Library
- The Warner Library (Tarryfown)

STRIVE Partnership

- Department of Social Services
- WestCOP
- Westchester County Department of Corrections
- Westchester County Department of Probation
- Westchester Family Court
- Westhab, Inc.
- Yonkers Public Schools

Summer Youth Employment

- Business Council of Westchester
- City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau
- City of Peekskill Youth Bureau
- City of White Plains Youth Bureau
- SER of Westchester
- Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (WestCOP)
- Westhab, Inc.
- The Children's Village
- Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
- New Rochelle Youth Bureau
- Thomas H. Slater Center
- Town of Greenburgh, Theodore Young Community Center
- The Guidance Center of Westchester

WDAY Contractors

- Children's Village
- The Guidance Center
- Mount Vernon Youth Bureau
- Putnam Northern Westchester BOCFS
- · Westhab, Inc.
- White Plains Youth Bureau

YouthBuild

- City of Mount Vernon
- City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau
- City of Peekskill Youth Bureau
- City of Peekskill Municipal Housing Authority
- Educational Opportunity Center of Westchester Community College
- National Builder's Association
- The Peekskill Preservation Company
- WestCOP

Red Carpet Team

- Brewster Chamber of Commerce
- Dutchess Community College
- Putnam County Economic Development Corporation
- Industrial Development Agency
- New York State Department of Labor
- Putnam Chamber of Commerce
- Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES
- Putnam Workforce Partnership
- SCORE
- Westchester Community College
- ACCES-VR

Sector Chairs for 2018-19

- Natasha Caputo
- Joe DiCarlo
- Scott Fernqvist
- Dani Glase
- Richard Greenwald
- Natalie Griffith
- Jim Irvine
- Harold Kina
- Kevin McCarthy
- Cynthia Rubino
- Fric Saidel
- Robert Sanders
- David Singer
- Joanna Straub
- Alana Sweeny

VITA Volunteers

- Rudolph Aikens
- Vera Allain
- Wanda Amparo
- Victoria Avalos
- Gregorio Avantes
- Jairo Barquero Yina Bravo
- Kari-Ann Brown
- Amanda Buraos
- Luz Camargo
- Jesse Canete
- Ruth Cedeno

- Chen Chen
- Shaun Cottle
- Maritza Couto
- Larry Cowen
- Noemi Crawford
- George Curtis
- Peter Delitta
- Jerome Dolins
- Liliana Dominauez
- Daniel Dreisler
- Katherine Garcia
- Huao Granda
- Whitney Greene
- Tamicka Hall
- Elizabeth Jimenez
- Anne Kaplan
- Dane Kosaka
- Carlos Manzueta
- Omar McDowell
- Annette Meeks
- Jeremy Morris
- Hilda Osorio Dolores Pepe
- Kelly Pintado
- Tom Regina
- Arline Sandberg
- Natasa Saric
- Hollies Sonia
- Antonios Stamos
- Jacaulyn Stephenson
- Robert Stevenson
- Nkong Tankeng
- Leelamma Thomas
- Jose Vazauez
- Cindy Velasquez
- Elena Vlad
- Alejandro Vera
- Yongli Wang
- Roger Wolf
- Mia Wriaht

budget summary

Statement of revenue and expenditures for Program Year 2018 (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019)

Revenue		Expenditures	
WIOA Adult	\$1,037,579	Personnel	\$2,063,744
WIOA DLW	\$ 918,208	Other than Personnel Cost	\$ 525,450
WIOA Youth	\$1,087,423	Employment Training Programs	\$1,618,845
WIOA Admin	\$ 338,134	Putnam County	\$ 184,052
TANF	\$ 450,000	Incumbent Worker	\$ 10,803
Summer TANF	\$ 692,828	Youth Experience	\$ 217,484
Jobs Waiting	\$1,653,369	WDAY	\$ 802,399
Strive Forward	\$ 205,424	Foster Care Program	\$ 60,000
Youth Build	\$ 188,731	TANF Occupational Skill Tanning	\$ 300,000
LEAP	\$ 152,033	Private Summer Sector	\$ 40,000
TechHire	\$ 549,745	Discretionary Grant Expenses	\$1,400,697
		Special Programs	\$ 50,000

Total Revenue: \$7,273,474 Total expenditures: \$7,273,474



A proud partner of the americaniobcenter network

The "Network" is made up of four Career Centers located in White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel and are primarily staffed by Westchester County, Putnam County, and New York State Department of Labor employees to provide free state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults, and employers. The Network also includes partner agencies who work in cooperation to provide expanded services. For more information visit www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

White Plains Career Center

120 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY 10605 (914) 995-3910

Hours: M-F, 8:30am-5pm

Orientations: Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Fridays at 9:30am

Carmel Career Center

110 Old Route Six, Building #3, Carmel, NY 10512

(845) 808-1651

Hours: M-F, 9am-5pm

(8am-4pm mid-June to mid-Sept.)

Orientations: Walk-in

Peekskill Career Center

201 South James Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

(914) 737-3490

Hours: M-F, 8:30am-5pm

Orientations: Walk-in

Mount Vernon Career Center

130 Mount Vernon Avenue, 1st Floor Mount Vernon, NY 10550 (914) 813-6555

Hours: M-F, 9am-5pm

Orientations: Tuesdays at 10:30am and Thursdays at 2pm







