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Westchester-Putnam Career Centers Outlines Opportunities in Time of Crisis

WESTCHESTER, N.Y. (March 30, 2020) – The staffs at the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board and Career Centers are now working remotely, putting in place procedures to continue to serve their clients. Employment Counselors are reaching out to current customers to schedule appointments via e-mail or phone to help with resume writing and interview skills, relaying job opening information and connecting customers to online training opportunities and workshops. Counselors are able to continue to provide the one-to-one counseling experience that has previously proven effective, in the process giving hope to those who are particularly vulnerable during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Despite the economic turndown, many national chains are hiring, including Walmart, Amazon, and CVS. The Career Centers' business team is developing local contacts for these larger chains while still working with regional employer contacts to make it easier for people to connect at a local level.

The Career Centers can also provide information on skills training options, and immediate hire for temporary and full-time positions that become available because of the crisis. The team is helping area businesses who have an urgent need, particularly for healthcare related jobs, and are facilitating the connection of people to those openings. Recent examples include Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco (now Northwell Health), Phelps Hospital in Tarrytown, as well as Garb-o-liner, a local New Rochelle business which is hiring to help with the manufacture of Personal Protection Equipment.

Employment counselors are tapping their existing customer base to help fill those jobs quickly, but are also accepting new customers. With the Career Centers currently closed to the public, there are several ways to connect. People can visit the online portal at www.westchesterputnamonestop.com; call 914-813-6555 or email wpwbcc@gmail.com.

Additionally, the New York State Department of Labor recently launched a new portal where job seekers can filter their search by job title and location making it easy to find jobs locally. Employers can also create an account and post openings. It can be found nyhirenow.usnlx.com.

For employers looking for workers, the Business and Community Engagement Team is ready to help. To start an account and post a job, create an employer profile on the website listed above and/or email Nahshon D. Halevi at nqhe@westchestergov.com or Charlene Manning: cqkc@westchestergov.com.

For those considering a career change, the centers have developed career pathways in high-demand occupations like Healthcare, Biotech and Information Technology. Employment counselors are ready to review work experience to develop a retraining and employment strategy.

“At this time of uncertainty, our staff is working hard, using new avenues of communication to give people hope and a sense of direction so that they can get immediate relief in the form of a job, or, longer term, the necessary training to be able to hit the ground running when normal life resumes,” states Thom Kleiner, *Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board*.

George Latimer Live Interview with Thom Kleiner, 033120 <https://youtu.be/r0FBkb65ZtE>

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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