

Urban League of Greater Hartford Jobs Fair, and *First Day the Right Way*



While the “dog days” of August are usually slow for most of us, the Urban League has been very busy. On August 12th they hosted the CT Tailored for Success: *Summer Jobs Readiness Series*. Partnering with volunteers from organizations as diverse as the Hartford Yard Goats and Gentlemen’s Warehouse they offered a five-hour workshop for people looking for employment. Those who participated got help with creating a resume that gets noticed, mock interviews, and

suggestions on how to dress for the interview.

Participants were warmly greeted upon arrival, and were requested to fill out a few forms describing briefly their work history, employment goals and dreams, and their personality traits that might match them with certain types of employment.

A lengthy discussion and a role-play activity were led by two male and two female employees of Gentlemen’s Warehouse, with a view to having participants understand the importance of first impressions, self-confidence when speaking with a potential employer, and of course, dressing properly for an interview.

An employee in a managerial position with the Hartford Yard Goats offered feedback during mock interviews. Having interviewed hundreds of people in his career, he noticed if an interviewee seemed nervous or insecure, and let the person know what signals would keep an interviewer from hiring him or her.

Capital Work Force Partners stationed three employees at desks to review the fine points of each person’s resume. For example, a resume might be improved by adding bullets, streamlining indentations, or widening margins to give a better visual impression.

Fedex was represented by an employee from the Willington facility. Almost all employees at Fedex begin part-time as package handlers. Within a short time, these part-time workers can increase their hours and their pay rate, and possibly move into more specialized areas such as forklift and machine operations, or even manager.

At the end of the Jobs Fair, each participant was offered a suit of clothes that could be worn for an interview. Urban League followed up with interviews on how to proceed in procuring a job that very day.

First Day the Right Way was sponsored by Urban League on August 27th. This time, school children, with their parents by their sides, received



backpacks full of school supplies. The event took place outdoors, and the long line of eager school children wove from a tree-shaded area onto the sun-scorched asphalt. Information tables were on site where families could learn about everything from donating their organs to finger drawing on an erasable pad. Students walked away with pens, carry bags, and a free children's book.

The Urban League greatly contributes to the Asylum Hill Neighborhood by supporting its residents in a variety of ways. Photos from Tailored for Success can be seen at <https://goo.gl/photos/A4rxZYP2cRHwY7TB8> and photos from First Day the Right Way are at <https://goo.gl/photos/8KhnvWuBWM39QV8D9>