2018 Youth Academy Call for Presentations

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS DUE:** 4:00 PM Friday, December 18, 2017

NYATEP’s 2018 Youth Academy: *Today’s Youth—Tomorrow’s Workforce*, will be held March 5-7, 2018 at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga, New York. This annual event will convene the best and the brightest from across the Northeast to tackle the issues facing young adults as they prepare for and enter jobs. Every year NYATEP requests those involved in successful programs, partnerships and innovations volunteer to share successes with their peers.

We are asking for workshops in the following categories:

- **WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM ELEMENTS:** Under WIOA, youth programs are expected to offer young adults a range of required youth services. We are particularly interested in sessions that provide curricular overviews that are exemplary of a youth element implementation; describe unique partnerships to achieve one or more elements; and/or serve Out of School youth ages 16-24.

- **GOING BEYOND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT YOUTH:** Young adults have a range of challenges they are working to overcome, and external factors like federal and state policies and societal issues impact youth success. We are looking for sessions focused on four key external areas: Young Adults and the Opioid Crisis; Impacts of Raise the Age and Youth Incarceration; Mental Health support for youth; and Youth in Poverty.

- **YOUTH WORKFORCE STAFF TOOLS:** We have razor thin budgets and huge need -- and staff are feeling the strain. Share with us your strategies for keeping staff engaged and excited about the work; tools to create efficiency and increase communication; and make work easier.

- **BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT:** The best youth workforce programs have a strong work-based learning approach that deeply engages employers. We are looking for work-based learning models -- from internships to apprenticeship to share how young adults are learning, earning and connecting with businesses.

This year, we will require that all submissions include an interactive element to the presentation to engage participants in each session. This may include, but isn't limited to -- opportunities to share between colleagues in small group work or with discussion questions; facilitated activities to help attendees understand the content; and or a presentation that solicits audience participation.

To submit a presentation, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jan Hennessy at [jhennessy@nyatep.org](mailto:jhennessy@nyatep.org) or (518) 433 – 1200 ext. 203.
Pre-Day Announced for 2018 Youth Academy

The 2018 Youth Academy: *Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Workforce* will be March 5 – 7, 2018. The Pre-Day session for Monday March 5th has been confirmed. Registration for the pre-day will be available when 2018 Youth Academy registration opens.

Pre-Day: Connecting our Communities through Story

*Creative Arts Team (CAT), City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center*

This pre-conference participant centered session will focus on the art of storytelling. Participants will explore how they tell their own life stories. They will reflect on how in telling our stories, we build communities in all areas of our lives, including in our profession and with the people we work with. The session will be fun and engaging, while also giving participants ways to re-energize and explore why they are committed to the work they do. The session will include an underlying theme of self-care, and the potential for using storytelling to connect people and build community.

NYATEP Kicks Off 2017 – 2018 Workforce Policy and Advocacy Academy

NYATEP launched the Workforce Policy and Advocacy Academy in 2011 to further develop a strong base of advocates in New York City. In 2016, with the generous funding of the New York City Workforce Funders, the Academy expanded to include upstate and downstate providers. We are happy to continue the program with this year’s class!

On November 14 – 15, NYATEP kicked off the 2017 – 2018 Workforce Policy and Advocacy Academy. The first session of the Academy explained the current issues facing workforce development as well as introductions to the advocacy project each team will be required to complete. Additionally, we brought in a panel of advocacy experts to answer questions about the best and worst ways to approach advocacy. The class was joined by Assemblymember Harry Bronson; Amber Mooney, NYS Business Council; and Kathryn Hohman, New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). We look forward to a productive and engaging Academy!

Partner Contribution – The Financial Clinic

Upcoming Webinar: When is More Not Extra? Effective Strategies for Financial Security

Join The Financial Clinic and the Workforce Benchmarking Network of Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) on December 12 at 1pm EST to learn about impactful integration of services to help workforce programs achieve greater financial security for their participants. In this briefing, we'll highlight:

- Effective integration strategies and tools for programs to address the financial insecurities that participants are already facing
- How addressing financial insecurities supports better workforce outcomes

The briefing will feature guest speakers from MetLife Foundation and JPMorgan Chase & Co., and will be moderated by Leah Mayor from the Asset Funders Network. Along with hearing testimonials from participating practitioners, it is our hope that you'll be armed with the following by the briefing's end:

- Key takeaways from our soon to be released issue brief, "When is More Not Extra," which explores in greater detail how simple, easy-to-implement financial strategies can accelerate financial independence for jobseekers
- Pivotal lessons learned presented from a 'been there, done that' perspective
- A glimpse into the future of our work on a national level: the Clinic is launching a new national financial security ecosystem for workforce development, and we'll be unveiling the RFP for our workforce partners

Register for the webinar here.

*Due to the holiday, the Financial Clinic’s regular contribution will be sent tomorrow. Be sure to check your inbox!*
Letter to U.S. Representatives to Fund WIOA

Earlier this month, NYATEP sent a letter to leadership in the House of Representatives, on behalf of the Chairs and Board Members of New York State’s local workforce development boards, urging Representatives to fund WIOA at the authorized level in the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. Below is an excerpt of the letter, for the full version click here.

“As business leaders deeply involved in workforce development in our region, we witness first-hand the power of job-training and employment services – and its direct impact on the economic prosperity of our communities. Investing in and developing a skilled workforce is a critical component of economic development and sustaining growth. In New York State, 41% of New Yorkers have a high school diploma or less. We need skilled workers. Without services and supports to address educational and skills attainment, connections to vital work supports like childcare and transportation; and services that assist employers – who are largely small to mid-sized companies - hire talented candidates, this worker shortage will be exacerbated.

In our experience, the best outcome you can expect from a ‘social program’ is a job. Employed New Yorkers pay taxes, shop at our companies, and can care for their families. However, the primary mechanism supporting upskilling America’s workforce, WIOA, is facing significant reductions in the federal budget. Locally, WIOA funded programs are collaboratively designed and implemented by workforce boards, education and training partners, and employers to meet local worker demand. This evidence-based approach is getting potential workers off the sidelines and into employment, and helping low-wage workers advance to middle class jobs.

Absent a bipartisan budget deal for Fiscal Year 2018, federal discretionary programs, like job training, education, and apprenticeships, will face a mandatory sequestration cut. These programs have already sustained a more than 50% cut in the last decade, which has limited our ability to recruit skilled workers. If sustained economic prosperity for America is a priority, we urge you to come together and agree to spending caps that allow for critical investments that further economic growth and improve individuals’ lives.

By stabilizing the federal budget, the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill must fully fund all Titles I, II, III, and IV at the level authorized by the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014.”

Thank you to the 37 local workforce development board members who signed on!

Youth Cohort Challenge: Applications due December 15, 2017

Is effectively engaging and retaining OSY a challenge in your local area? How would you like to be part of a diverse and dynamic group consisting of participants from around the country that focuses on tackling this issue head-on? Apply now to participate in the Youth Cohort Challenge.

Connecting with, and engaging out-of-school youth (OSY) is one of the biggest challenges youth providers of all types struggle with. From finding and recruiting OSY, to keeping them engaged throughout their program lifespan, success can often be a moving target, and difficult to achieve. Effective engagement and retention requires planning, a skilled staff and ongoing efforts to sustain success. When looking at this issue at the local level, discussion often focuses on:

- Program Design, Elements and Participant Flow
- Positive Youth Development Principles and Relationship Building
- Community Partnerships, Collaboration and Sustainability

The Department of Labor is looking to select teams of 3-5 participants from local areas that will collaborate through an organized process to develop solutions to improve system integration. The Cohort process will cover 12 weeks during February-April, 2018. Applications are due December 15, 2018. For more information on the Youth Cohort Challenge and to apply, click here.
Rep. Chris Collins toured the offices of the county's Job Development Bureau November 17th to learn more about the work the department does to help people in Genesee County find jobs.

The tour, led by Jay Lazarony, GLOW Workforce Development Board executive director, focused on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WOIA), which is a federal program designed to help youth and those with significant barriers to employment find and retain high-quality jobs and careers.

Many of the clients who enter the program have not developed the job skills that help them retain jobs.

Lazarony told the story of one woman who entered the program who had been working as a home health care aide but couldn't stay in a job. The training she received helped her understand what it takes to hold onto a job and also provided her with the skills to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. The program helped her with the expense of travel, shoes, and scrubs. She eventually landed a full-time job at the Genesee County Nursing Home and now she's studying to become a Registered Nurse.

"This is the stuff that we can do with that funding, is give people a great start," Lazarony told Collins. Collins said he appreciated the insight because so often the programs that pass before congressional members for review are just numbers on a page but the tour helped him see how the program benefits people.

So far in 2017, the center has helped 989 clients, including 141 through WIOA. A total of 137 veterans have been assisted. There have been 1,322 people placed in jobs in Genesee County through the department's services.

Collins also learned about on-the-job-training programs through 13 participating businesses, occupational training programs, 38 on-site employer-specific job recruitment sessions, and the Summer Youth Employment program that placed 39 high school students in jobs at 23 work sites this summer.

Sometimes the clients of the center need ongoing help, said Scott Gage, director of the bureau. “We’ll actually stay with them for 12 months after they leave us," Gage said. "We can mediate anything going on with the business, help this person out with issues. We’ve got a lot of community partners we rely on to help us out, social service agencies that will help us out in a number of ways and there’s no funding involved. They provide services and we access those services."

There are currently more than 600 job listings on file with the bureau and most of those are good-paying jobs, Gage said. With local unemployment at about 4 percent, it's proving hard for companies to find skilled workers.

The tight job market is helping to bring some people into the workforce who until now had opted out, Lazarony said. He said two recent clients the bureau has placed in jobs have worked their way up to full-time employment. They were in their mid-20s when they first came in and had never worked any type of job in their lives. They weren't part of the system at all. They just lived at home and didn't work.

Collins observed that "Anybody who wants to get a job can get a job. It may not be at the wage they want, or the hours they want, or the job they want, but they can get a job." Changes in aid programs initiated by Congress might change some of that, Collins said. "As we continue down that road you’re going to start to see people lined up out your door," Collins said.
Career Pathways: Five Ways to Connect College and Careers, Georgetown University, 2017

Career Pathways: Five Ways to Connect College and Careers posits that integrating education and workforce data will go a long way in removing the guesswork for individuals navigating the college and career maze. A number of states have started to leverage integrated education and workforce data by developing publicly available information tools in these five areas:

- Education Projections, Business Expansion, and Workforce Quality
- Program Alignment with Labor Market Demand
- Curriculum Alignment with Workforce Requirements
- Counseling and Career Pathways
- Job Placement and Skills Gap Analysis

For the full report, click here.

Upcoming Member Information, Events & Funding Opportunities

If you have an event that you would like announced in the next edition of the Buzz, please submit it to: mhubner@nyatep.org by close of business December 6, 2017. All events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Events

Employer Engagement to Support People with Disabilities in the Labor Force Webinar
December 11, 3:00 PM
The webinar will be presented in three key parts. First, identifying the key Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provisions on employer engagement and promoting work based training. Second, highlighting successful strategies and barriers in working with employers to find jobs for the disability population. Finally, sharing insights on best practices of different technology tools currently being applied to help individuals with disabilities thrive and succeed in the workplace.
More information and registration available here.

When is More Not Extra? Effective Strategies for Financial Security
December 12, 1:00 PM
Join The Financial Clinic and the Corporation for Skilled Workforce on December 12 at 1pm EST for a free virtual briefing to learn about a new approach for effective and impactful integration to help workforce programs achieve greater financial security for their participants to achieve workforce outcomes.
More information and registration available here.

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 Youth Academy – Today’s Youth Tomorrow’s Workforce
March 5 – 8, 2018, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs, NY
Registration is forthcoming. Apply to present at the Youth Academy here.

2018 New York State APSE Employment First Training Institute
April 29 – May 1, 2018 in Lake Placid, New York
More information and registration available here.

Funding Opportunities

Youth Employment Grants
U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta joined the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) for its announcement of $500,000 in grants to introduce 1,000 young Americans to hospitality jobs across the country. There are more than 6.1 million job openings in the U.S., including 762,000 openings in the hospitality industry. The grants announced will help young people access jobs that lead to lasting, family-sustaining careers.