

Dear Business Partners,

Firstly, we would like to express our genuine concern for all of our business partners. Our hopes are that you, your employees, and your families are safe and in good health.

As many companies have had to close down to protect their employees and customers from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we would like to remind you that the MassHire Holyoke Career Center is open remotely providing services for employers and job seekers in our community. Our staff continues to support job seekers and businesses needing assistance with services such as job postings, recruitment, job fairs, Unemployment Information links, and other employer needs.

We are hopeful that things will normalize in time for our 2020 summer job programs to come to fruition. With this in mind, we are reaching out to our business community to encourage you again to participate in this effort by supporting of our youth with their career and job readiness goals. If the current situation continues into July, we would like to continue our efforts and create remote (or other) partnership opportunities.

You can assist in any of the following ways:

- Directly hiring youth for the summer 2020
- Becoming a host work and learning site (wages are paid by the summer program,)
- Sponsoring a youth to work this summer by providing summer wages for placement in community or business based work sites. \$1500 will pay for a 6 work experience. This provides more opportunities for youth to be employed this summer.
- Consider providing a work site for the fall 2020

We encourage you to support our youth and to become a part of our summer programs. Research shows that youth who participate in summer or year round work tend to be less involved in negative activities and are more apt to become successful citizens.

You may have work opportunities, projects to be completed or an interest in teaching projects/experiences where youth can be of assistance to your business. If you have further questions do not hesitate to contact me at glebron-martinez@masshireholyoke.org or (413) 322-7143.

Attached is a form to complete to express your interest in participating this summer. A separate job order form also is provided. We want to thank you in advance, and we look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Stay safe and be well,

Gladys Lebron-Martinez,
Youth Service Director