



Worcester Youth Leadership Institute Gets Underway for Area 16-20 Year Olds

Program entering fourth year, led by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, to introduce high school students to area businesses, civic leadership

Worcester, Massachusetts—While many students head-off to summer vacations, some area high school students will have an opportunity to participate in the fourth annual Worcester Youth Leadership Institute (WYLI). The Institute is a partnership between the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, the United Way of Central Massachusetts, United Families for Change, Worcester Community Action Council and the City of Worcester’s Youth Opportunities Office with support from Reliant Medical Group and GFI Partners, the program sponsors for the third year in a row.

WYLI will offer students a seven-week learning experience and exposure to a variety of businesses, Worcester landmarks, and mentors. The Institute, which will begin the week of June 26, is part of a broader effort by the Chamber of Commerce to develop and mentor Worcester’s future leaders.

“The goal is simple – expose high schools students to the myriad of businesses, leaders, mentors, and possibilities available in their own communities,” said Timothy Murray, president and CEO, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. “These students are our future leaders. We want them to know and understand that their community can offer them a unique college experience and fascinating job opportunities, and provide insight and perspective on the city’s history, leadership, business community, and government make-up.”

AFFILIATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Auburn | Blackstone Valley | Central Mass South Chamber | Wachusett Area | Webster Dudley Oxford

446 Main St., Suite 200 • Worcester, MA 01608 • T: 508.753.2924 • F: 508.754.8560 • www.worcesterchamber.org



Coordinated by Walter Joval, WYLI will identify 25 participants in the city's YouthWorks program. The students, who were nominated by their YouthWorks employer, will participate in a seven-week, four-hour a day summer leadership program as part of their employment program.

"We think this is an awesome opportunity to enhance our employment program," said Jeff Turgeon, Executive Director, Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board. "These students have already shown initiative by participating in the YouthWorks program, and by offering an extended learning experience outside of the typical workday, we will be able to give them a unique experience and hopefully a greater appreciation for their community."

The Institute, which will run from June 27 – August 11, will introduce participants to the business, government, education and non-profit sectors in a variety of ways; including talks, question and answer sessions with the leadership structures of various sectors and organizations, visits, tours and sessions at a number of venues.

Students will visit one or two sites every week and participate in a leadership training program called Signal Success. The curriculum will also include a skills development component. Topics will include leadership focus areas from the Worcester fabric, such as entrepreneurship, Worcester history and culture, life and health sciences, non-profit organizations, and city government.

The program launched in 2014 after conversations between Tim Murray, and George Smith and Ron Scott from United Families for Change, as well as Mayor Joseph Petty, City Manager Edward Augustus, and City Councilors Philip Palmieri and Sarai Rivera. All of the partner organizations came together and graduated 50 students over the past two summers. "We plan to continue to grow this alumni network to help build a sense of community for future and past participants in this program," stated Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Youth Opportunities Coordinator for the City of Worcester.

#

Media Contact:

Sharyn T. Williams, Director of Marketing and Communications

508-753-2924, ext. 231

swilliams@worcesterchamber.org

AFFILIATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Auburn | Blackstone Valley | Central Mass South Chamber | Wachusett Area | Webster Dudley Oxford

446 Main St., Suite 200 • Worcester, MA 01608 • T: 508.753.2924 • F: 508.754.8560 • www.worcesterchamber.org