

Summer Spotlight



EWIB Summer Jobs Program A Huge Success

commitments (*People's United Community Foundation* \$17,500; *Liberty Bank Foundation* \$5,000; *Charter Oak Federal Credit Union* \$3,500), employer contributions, and the CT Youth Employment Program funds in the state budget.

John Beauregard, EWIB's Executive Director states, "Combined, the 600+ Eastern CT youth in this program will earn almost \$1M during the course of the summer. This not only helps our participants' families, but also is a helpful boost to stimulate our local economy." The creation of these job opportunities helps the region's

youth overcome the disadvantage of their limited experience in today's highly competitive job market.

"With worksites as diverse as town hall engineering departments, hospitals, and colleges ~ this program helps youth acquire valuable work experience, as well as enhance future employability & job skills," stated Tom Burn, Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Chair. History has shown that past program participants are more likely to stay in school, graduate, & thus, be more likely to participate successfully in the labor market.

On-Line Training Helps Fill Training Demand

With regional unemployment still hovering near 9%, the CTWorks-East Centers have been flooded with job-seekers requesting training. "They hope that updated skills will give them the edge in the job market," said Carol LaBelle, EWIB's Director of Operations. Through Stimulus funding, EWIB sent over 500 people to the region's colleges and other post-secondary schools.

As requests continued to flood staff, and funding dwindled, EWIB was able to fill this gap in a cost-effective way through its expansive offering of on-line training in Metrix. EWIB issued over 1,000 on-line licenses between July '09 and Jun '10 ~ with customers completing nearly 4,000 courses in business skills, IT, and healthcare. Beginning this fall, an agreement with the American Council on Education (ACE), Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) & Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) will help customers turn the courses into college credits!

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More than 600 Eastern CT youth collected a paycheck this summer as a result of CT's five (5) Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) partnering with the CT Departments of Social Services & Labor to leverage American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

To meet the Recovery Act's non-federal funding match requirements, Eastern CT received philanthropic fund

60 E/CT Youth Find Career Pathways This Summer

The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), working through their youth program providers: EASTCONN, Norwich Youth & Family Services, and New London's Office of Youth Affairs, teamed-up with Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) & the Employment & Training Institute (ETI) to provide 60 Eastern CT youth an up-close view into three (3) career pathways: Healthcare, Green Jobs, & STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math*) careers.

Sixty youth from across Eastern CT descended on TRCC July 1st to begin seven (7) days of learning and preparation activities before they move into work experience sites to match their areas of interest. Daily

FACTS
EWIB's Summer Employment Program provided 600+ individuals with summer employment for ~6wks @ \$8.25 p/hr, infusing ~\$1Million into the local economy by providing job skills & experience for low-income populations and work-readiness training for youth.

activities included on-line learning chosen to match the three (3) career pathways & classes given by TRCC instructors ranging from "Nursing Roles & Responsibilities" in the Healthcare Pathway, to "Building A Solar Collector" in Green Jobs Pathway, to "Lasers/Holograms" in STEM.

"We all know about the economic impact on our state's



future when our students become 'disengaged,' or possibly even drop-out. These programs give young people an opportunity to learn job readiness skills & see career opportunities first hand ~ plus earn money." John Beauregard, EWIB Executive Director said. "It also gives youth an inside look at Community College life & the programs that they offer."

After completing training at Three Rivers, the students were placed in individual job sites that matched their pathways where they completed a five (5) week work experience.