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SARATOGA COUNTY ANNOUNCES **WORKPAYS!** WORKFORCE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Program Promotes the Services Provided by the Saratoga County Career Center &
the Importance of Returning to the Workforce

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY – Saratoga County Officials today announced a new initiative designed to help get people back into the workforce. **WorkPays!** is a public education campaign that showcases the services provided by the Saratoga County Career Center and promotes the importance to returning to the workforce.

The Federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) supplement of \$300 ended on September 4, 2021. Extended UI benefits, which allowed for claimants to receive benefits beyond 26-weeks will also end this week. This means that only claimants in the regular 26-week UI window will continue to receive benefits. The Saratoga County Career Center offers many free services and resources to help those returning to the workforce.

"I'm pleased to announce the **WorkPays!** initiative to promote the great services our Career Center offers," said Theodore T. Kusnierz, Town of Moreau Supervisor and Chairman of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors. "With kids going back to school and nearly every industry in Saratoga County looking to fill vacant positions, there is no better time to get back to work. Our Career Center is available to assist our residents in their job search and employment training endeavors through services that will prepare them for the jobs Saratoga County employers are offering."

The Saratoga County Career Center (The Career Center) offers free virtual workshops designed to help individuals master the job search process. Topics include Transferable Skills, Goal Setting, Resume Development, Interview Prep, and many more. These workshops are ideal for anyone who may feel they need assistance approaching the job search process or who need help changing careers. To see the schedule and register, please visit <https://thejoblink.org/calendar/>. The New York State Department of Labor has also launched the virtual Career Center at careeronestop.org, that provides resources for job-seekers.

The Career Center also offers a free, self-guided eLearning courses through Metrix, a national online training company. There are more than 5,000 courses available and no maximum limit of courses one can take. Courses include skills development for clerical, healthcare, financial, manufacturing, and IT industries; software training for platforms such as Microsoft Excel, Adobe Photoshop, and Auto CAD, and business development courses such as leadership training, conflict resolution and more. Saratoga County residents can register for a free account at www.metrixlearning.com to take courses and earn certifications to bolster their skills and resume.

The Career Center also provides one-on-one guidance and structured training for career planning and job seeking. Interested residents can call the Career Center at 518-884-4170. Calls are returned within the hour. *Please note:* The Career Center staff cannot address issues or specific questions about an individual's UI benefit status. These questions should be directed to the NYS DOL claims center at 1-888-209-8124.

For those who are ready to begin their job search, the Career Center can connect individuals with job search resources such as the New York State Job Bank <https://newyork.usnlx.com/>, which offers job listings for vacancies throughout New York State and the Job Link, <https://thejoblink.org/>, which offers job listings for vacancies in Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

Jennifer McCloskey, Director of the Saratoga County Employment and Training office said, "This is the time to get back into the workforce. As businesses are struggling to find workers, we are seeing historically high wages, generous benefit packages, and flexible scheduling in their efforts to attract and retain workers. The Saratoga County Career center can help our residents with resources that enable them to find their next job and strike while the iron is hot."

In addition to taking advantage of an unprecedented employee-friendly environment, residents contemplating a return to work should know that it is important to get back into the workforce for many reasons including:

- Large gaps in your resume may get your application overlooked by hiring managers.
- Time away from the workforce may lead to skills deficiencies and expiring credentials.
- The Unemployment Insurance system is based on your earned income. In the unfortunate event that you would require UI in the future, your determination and benefit amount will be based on how much you recently worked.

For more information, contact the Saratoga County Career Center at (518) 884-4170 and follow them on Facebook @SaratogaCountyEmployment&Training for job postings, training opportunities, job fairs, and announcements.

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