

Workforce Advantage

JANUARY 2023

ISSUE # 01



The Team

We are here to assist you in upgrading your skills for the changing world of work!

The Employment & Training Department operates the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program for Saratoga County residents. WIOA is a landmark legislation signed into law in 2014. It is a program that offers a comprehensive range of workforce development activities. Activities and services are focused on providing resource, training and education that will benefit the job seekers, dislocated workers, new entrants to the workforce, veterans, persons with disabilities and local businesses. The purpose is to promote an increase in employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills improvement by participants. This aims to improve the quality of the workforce, reduces welfare dependency, and improves the productivity and competitiveness of the nation. **NOTE TO PUBLIC:** The availability of WIOA funding for enrollment is based on many factors starting with the comprehensive assessment of an individual's employment needs. Individuals who are interested in determining if they qualify for WIOA training funding should contact the Saratoga County Career Center.

TABLE OF CONTENT:

- Meet the Team Pg 1-2
- Youth Programs Pg 2
- Adult Services Pg 3
- Business Services..... Pg 3
- EMT Pilot Program Launched Pg 3
- Myth's & Facts About Skilled Trades..... Pg 4
- Why A Skilled Trade May Be the Right Path For You .. Pg 4
- Message from the Director Pg 6

MEET THE TEAM and Connect with us !



JENNIFFER McCLOSKEY
Director
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Jennifer McCloskey collaborates with the Saratoga, Warren and Washington Workforce Development Board in the oversight of the Saratoga County Career Center, Fiscal Management, and WIOA programing. Additionally, Jennifer sits on numerous committees and boards within the Saratoga County community to advocate and innovate workforce development effort. Recently Jennifer worked with the Town of Clifton Park, Clifton Park-Halfmoon EMS, Hudson Valley Community College, Shenendehowa High School to launch the Saratoga County EMT Career Pathway pilot program for graduating seniors during the summer of 2022. The program was highly successful and expansion of the program for the summer of 2023 is currently in the works. For more information regarding the Saratoga County EMT Career Pathway Program, please see page 3.

Connect with us!



CHUCHAY STARK
Coordinator
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Chuchay is responsible for assisting in the oversight, development and implementation of employment and training programs. Her work duties also include assisting in the expansion of partnerships and in the overall operation of the department.



DEB BISHOP
Senior Fiscal Clerk
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Deb serves as the department's fiscal person. Her work duties includes budgeting, payroll, accounts payable, and supporting the team.



KASSIE PURCELL
Youth Program Counselor
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Kassie works with young adult clients ages 14-24 through the Employment Readiness Program and the Summer Youth Employment Program.



KEVIN KUON
Adult Program Counselor
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Kevin works with clients ages 24 and up who have the desire to skill up and learn more about employment strategies. He helps with career goal setting, resume development, career counseling, job search assistance, interview techniques, access to job training/funding and much more.



SHERYL MORROW
Adult Program Counselor/ CWOP
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Sheryl administers the Community Work Order Program providing community service opportunities for offenders. In addition, she works with adults who have the desire to skill up and learn more about effective strategies leading to stable employment, keeping with customer goals. She promotes online learning through the Coursera Program and Metrix Learning. Sheryl facilitates career workshops both virtually and in person to help various populations successfully navigate through the job search process and attain self-sufficiency.

CALL TO ALL LOCAL PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

If you are interested in supporting, mentoring, and developing our community's youth, please connect with us. We would love to meet and tell you more about the programs that are geared towards guiding the youth of Saratoga County and building vital job skills.

Youth Programs



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP):

SYEP is an eight-week summer program for eligible youth (ages 14-21) to earn money, receive initial financial literacy education, and gain basic employment readiness soft skills with the support of a youth program counselor. Youth are matched with one of the numerous worksites throughout Saratoga County. Jobs that have been available to the youth in previous years include but are not limited to: landscaping, maintenance workers, summer camp counselors, and library pages. Eligibility for the program is based on household income. An application for SYEP 2023 will become available in late March or early April. All jobs are given on a first come first serve basis. Any interested youth having questions about the program or the application should contact the youth program counselor.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM (ERP):

A year-round program for eligible youth to explore career and education pathways with the support of the youth program counselor. This is a self-driven program with youth at the steering wheel. The program is tailored to meet each youth, program counselor is available to provide supportive services to overcome any current potential barrier(s) to youth's goals. All youth within the program are provided the opportunity to learn how to manage their finance, identify utilize their strengths to achieve their educational and career goals, participate in work experience, internships, apprenticeships, develop leadership, entrepreneurial skills, and gain occupational skills training. A few examples of goals achieve by youth previously enrolled in the program are completion of their High School Equivalency (GED); acceptance into college trade school, completion of college, trade school programs, and obtaining a job within their field of interest. Eligibility for the program varies and is dependent on multiple factors. Any interested youth should contact the youth program counselor to determine eligibility.

LAUNCHING THIS MONTH!

A Youth GED Program in partnership with WSWHE BOCES. Interested out-of-school youth ages 16-24 should contact the youth program counselor for information. Please note, participation in the youth GED program requires enrollment in the Employment Readiness Program and space is limited.

Adult Services

WORK PREPARATION ESSENTIALS: Work readiness assistance through virtual or one-on-one in person employment workshops. Workshops includes but not limited to: Goal Setting, Resume Building, Completing Job Application, Transferrable Skills, Interview Tips, Overcoming Barriers to Employment, and How to Use Social Media to Your Advantage in Job Searching.

EXPLORE CAREER PATHS: A resource room with computers for job searching and other employment related activities. Free career pathways handouts for job seekers.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: Computers and printers available for job search activities.

IN PERSON GUIDANCE: Adult and Youth Career Counselors providing support, insight, and resources to aid job seekers in making important career decisions.

VETERANS' SERVICES: Information on Veteran programs and services, including training opportunities and supportive services.

ONLINE LEARNING: Achieve a variety of certifications through self-paced Skill Up Courses via Metrix.



Business Services

- Customized Training
- Grant Opportunities
- Hiring Assistance
- Interview Space
- Job Fairs
- Labor Information
- On-the-Job Training
- Workforce Reduction Assistance

Have you Heard?

EMT PATHWAY PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHED!!!

A program made possible by Saratoga County Employment and Training Director, Jen McCloskey for our local High School Students



Saratoga County EMT Career Pathway Pilot Program Students



Supervisor of Clifton Park, Phil Barrett; Superintendent of Shenendehowa Schools, Dr. L. Oliver Robinson; HVCC Program Director of Paramedic and Community Health, Robert Phillip; Executive Director of Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Corps, Inc., Alan Bell.

The Saratoga County Department of Employment and Training together with Town of Clifton Park, Clifton Park-Halfmoon EMS, Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC), Shenendehowa High School (Shen), launched the EMT Career Pathway Pilot Program last year. The partnership aimed to create a community-based collaboration to provide the structure and supports needed for success. The program was born out of the need for current and future first responders, was designed to be the first step in what we hope to be a lifelong dedication to public service and greater medical careers for participants. The program started with a group of six from Shen in Clifton Park, who were enrolled at Hudson Valley Community College and began their training at the HVCC TEC-SMART campus in Malta. At completion, they earned seven college credits. Committing much of their summer, the program encompassed 140 hours of instruction and practical lab time in addition to ten patient ride-along with the Clifton Park-Halfmoon EMS.

Today, there are six new EMTs in Saratoga County, and next summer, our goal is to double or triple that number.

To learn more about how to help and continue with this effort, please reach out to Jen McCloskey, Director of Saratoga County Employment and Training:
Jmccloskey@saratogacountyny.gov



Director of Saratoga County Employment and Training, Jennifer McCloskey with three EMT Career Pathway students.

Myths and Facts about Skilled Trades

From PeopleReady



In case you haven't heard, workers in the skilled trades are hard to come by—and they're in high demand.

Here are four common myths about skilled trades and the truth behind them.

Myth 1: "These jobs don't pay well."

Truth:

Skilled trades positions offer a variety of wages, and like other industries, the more experience you have, the likelier you are to earn more.

Myth 2: "You can't find work year round."

Truth:

People need plumbers, electricians, licensed practical nurse, and carpenters through every season.

Myth 3: "I don't have enough experience."

Truth:

That might be true—right now. Certain skilled trades positions require certifications or hours of experience.

Myth 4: "It's a dying industry."

Truth:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, skilled trades professions are growing as quickly as the rest of the overall workforce, with plumbers and pipefitters growing at twice the rate.

Why a Skilled Trade May Be the Right Path for you

By: Kevin Kuon - Adult Employment Counselor

While a college degree is an invaluable resource it is becoming increasingly clear that **college is not for everyone and certainly not the only way to provide yourself a rewarding and long-standing career.** In fact, many skilled trades careers offer similar pay and benefits to their white-collar counterparts.

Here are just a few reasons why a skilled trades might be right for you.

1. Acquiring "real world" experience while completing your training and/or apprenticeship. Participants not only learn their trade, they practice it and obtain valuable skills in the process of becoming certified.

2. In most instances the price tag of training is much more reasonable than a traditional college education. Additionally, there's a plethora of scholarship and grant opportunities to support skilled trades. This means that most students come out of training with little to no student debt.

3. It takes significantly less time to earn a trade certification than a college diploma. That means while college students are still in school and paying tuition, skilled trades workers are out in the field and earning a living.

4. Skilled trade workers make a great living! Skilled trades are a necessity in our society and employers and customers are willing to pay top dollar for those who can perform the job in need.

5. Opportunities are limitless.

With trade skills you have the ability to open your own business, work for a growing company or apply for a highly specialized job. You are in control of your destiny!



A Message from the Director

Dear Job Seekers, Employers, Community Members, and Business Partners,

On behalf of Saratoga County Employment and Training Department (SCET), I invite you to take advantage and learn about what we do for the community through our new e-newsletter. Our department's mission is to advance the economic well-being of Saratoga County by developing and maintaining a skilled and diverse workforce to meet the needs of the current economy. We provide opportunities to job seekers by educating them on the different pathways to sustainable employment, career advancement, and economic sustainability

Whether you represent a business or a job seeker in search of a new career, you are invited to put the SCET to work for you.

We strive to deliver information you need to find out the latest labor market trends, how to land your desired job

and be ready for a skilled career. The services we provide are gratis with top-level professional staff ready to assist you.

If you are a business and would like to highlight your open positions and why you are a great place to work, contact us today to be a part of our Business Spotlight.

We welcome your feedback on this new communications piece (send it to jmcloskey@saratogacountyny.gov) If you want to sign up to receive the Workforce Advantage Newsletter, please complete the form by scanning the QR code on the next page.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please give us your thoughts!

Warm regards,
Jennifer McCloskey

Take advantage of the FREE MONTHLY
VIRTUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS!!!
To learn more about it and how to sign
up, please visit: www.thejoblink.org

This quarterly newsletter is
brought to you by:

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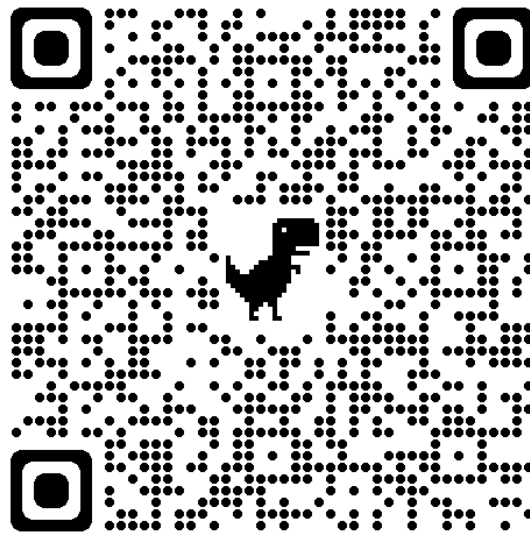
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Get tips and updates about our programs and the local workforce through our quarterly newsletter. To join our mailing list, send a note to: cstark@saratogacountyny.gov

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