

Niagara WDB Youth Committee Meeting

Meeting Held: 2/26/19 at Niagara County Center for Economic Development/IDA

Attendees: Kathleen Granchelli of YWCA, Marilee Clark of Community Missions, Dawn Cody of Niagara County Employment & Training Department, Bonnie Rice of Niagara County Employment & Training Department, and John Accardo of Niagara Workforce Development Board.

Call-ins: Brian Rotella of Niagara Falls School District, Dawn Wylke of Lockport School District.

The Committee plans to host three separate "Ready to Employ" Recruitment Fairs, on site at each of the three major city school districts: Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda.

Initial plans are as follows:

- Arrange for 20-30 businesses to attend. Encourage businesses to send a person with hiring authority and to plan for brief interviews where appropriate. Limit to businesses with job openings that offer living wage jobs.
- Invite high school seniors who do not plan to attend college post-high school. These will not be summer jobs, but long-term employment opportunities.
- Trade Unions: invite apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs to attend. Mention in invitations that ON-BOCES students will be attending.
- Mention the possibility of On-the-Job Training dollars (up to \$5,000 per new hire) and training scholarships (up to \$4,000 per student) in the business invitations.
- Ensure employers are engaging with youth at the event. This is meant to be an interactive experience with interviews and discussions with the youth about available job openings.
- Schools to be encouraged to prepare the seniors for interviews (interview attire, resumes, sample interview questions, workshops, e.g.).
- Employers will be able to direct seniors to a table to connect directly with possible new hire wage reimbursements or possible training dollars. For example, if a welding company wants to hire a senior who has no welding experience, the senior could qualify for \$4,000 in scholarship monies for welding training. For new hires, the employer could be reimbursed up to \$5,000 in wages (75% of wages) if the new hire will be trained by an existing employer.

Potential employers to invite:

- Home Depot: Joel Feuerman has already expressed interest in attending all three events.
- GEICO
- Diversified Manufacturing
- Sumitomo Tire

Lockport High School

Dawn Wylke said 6/14/19 from 8:30am to 10:30am is best for the Lockport Recruitment Fair. June 14th will be the last Friday classes and will be Senior Celebration Day for

Lockport High School. Students do not attend classes that day, but they do come to school. ON-BOCES students will be on site. The event could be held in the school gym, which is by the Auditorium. Lockport will have tables available, so there is no need to arrange for delivery.

Niagara Falls High School

Brian Rotella said a date in June will be better for Niagara Falls. Kathleen Granchelli will email Brian the planning details, and Brian will get a firm date for the event soon.

North Tonawanda High School

Brian will contact Michael Tambroni to secure a date for the North Tonawanda event. Brian said Michael is very interested in participating.

Action Items

Youth Committee Member	Action	Due By	Completed
Bonnie	Meeting minutes	2/28/19	yes
Kathleen	Email Recruitment Fair details to high schools	ASAP	yes
All	Recommend employers to contact regarding job openings	Bring to next meeting	
Bonnie/Dawn Cody	Bring current Job Orders for job openings in Lockport, NF, and NT to the next meeting – employers to invite to the Employer Connection event	Bring to next meeting	

Next Youth Committee Meeting

To be announced – possibly a conference call instead of meeting in person.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Rice