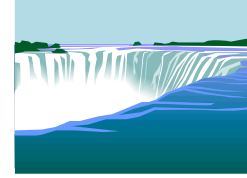


Niagara County Workforce Development Group
ZOOM Meeting



Wednesday, January 27, 2021 @ 9 a.m.
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Item	Result
Welcome/ Introductions	Dennis M., Renee P., Bonnie R., Chandra W., Jola S., Karen K., Michael C., Colleen C. Michael K.
Minutes from December meeting	Yay
REPORTS Alphabet soup	Participants Speak
NCE&T Mike K	OJT Update:11 active OJTs, including: Audubon Machinery Corporation, Matrix Machine Specialties, Inc., Niacet, Powell's Heating & Cooling. Powell's is a minority owned business and it is hoped that others will be used for OJT in the future. Some companies are reporting a moratorium on hiring but others are active. Three local companies have expressed interest in hiring our candidates, but unfortunately no good matches can be found. These companies are, Cascades, Vishay, Materion and American Glass.
Career Center Chandra W Business Services	The website has been refreshed with key elements. Feed back is requested on how to make it even more user friendly. A GM rep. from Detroit contacted the center about 150 temp to perm openings for production worker at the LP GM plant. The positions pay \$16/hr. and can result in permanent employment if probationary period is successful. General Motors Lockport Components is actively hiring for Production Worker! https://generalmotors.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/Careers_GM/job/Lockport-COMP---Lockport-COMP/Production-Worker_JR-000000191 Partial UI Information See attached
WDB Bonnie R	Bonnie continues to meet with the WNY Regional Economic Development Talent Attraction Group. The next steps will be to attract work-from-anywhere companies to encourage their employees to move to our five-county region. The One-Stop Partner MOU is ready for completion once two state agencies provide missing data. Bonnie met via Zoom with representatives from Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Representative Katko to talk about what's needed in a federal-level Recovery plan. Emphasis was placed on the current skills mismatch; the need for reskilling, upskilling and OJT; the need for flexibility in funding to meet our local needs, such as wifi hotspots and laptops for trainees. The attached

	<p>flyer was shared with these Congressional Reps. Title II RFP for education - only ONBOCES applied and this will be reviewed for approval. Craft Technical Institute is awaiting NYS Education Department review of their training facility. Once that is received, we will discuss courses appropriate for Niagara's approved training provider list.</p> <p>See attached flyer</p>
<p>NCCED Mike C</p>	<p>2021 will see 6 virtual small business workshops. Three will be of a general format and three will be targeted to include workforce development programs that show the financial benefits that business can achieve through their services. The first of these targeted sessions will take place on February 25th at 10AM and include presentations by ACCES-VR, NCCC, Niagara County Employment & Training and Orleans- Niagara B.O.C.E.S. The remaining dates to be determined will fall in June and October. The more traditional sessions will be held in April, August and December. Agra Outreach program is being developed. Stavatti Aerospace and Trek have been approved for low cost Hydro Power. Each of these companies will offer many job opportunities as their projects develop. Retention/Growth call list. Goal is that a dozen companies per month will be contacted with a letter, a questionnaire and a follow up phone call.</p>
<p>NCCC Karen K</p>	<p>Virtual OSHA and Safety training is being offered to area businesses at low cost. See https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/wd/osha/ for more information. Begins in March!</p> <p>Pharmacy Technician (started on Jan 23rd) and Sterile Processing is starting February 1st. High-demand areas. We get calls and emails weekly from pharmacies and other organizations looking to hire students from both classes. COVID is making the need for employees critical. Funding available from unions, Catholic Charities, and other CBO's to cover tuition costs.</p> <p>Google IT Network Support Professional class starts Feb 8th. Students are being referred and funded through BETC- in Erie County! Medical Billing is starting March 1st if you have anyone interested. Other courses, Supply Chain Management, Electrical Theory and Safety, Drone, and other courses beginning soon! See https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/wd/ for more information.</p> <p>College upgrading Welding and Electrical labs in response to needs of companies and program.</p> <p>SUNY Apprenticeship funds available for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training. May be a good avenue especially for small businesses who need to train new employees. For more information please see https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/apprentice/</p>
<p>OTDA Jola S</p>	<p>Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) This refers to the rebate of funds to families of students that would have been eligible</p>

	<p>to receive free school meals during the spring of last year when schools were closed. Jola reports that OTDA is still fielding email and other forms of communication with families who can receive the refund. Many of the families involved had moved so that contact was thwarted. Most of these were in the downstate and NYC area. There were 4000 emails to answer and 2.5 million students affected in NYS. The rebate is \$420 per student.</p> <p>Jola also said that Joe B1 is processing applications for SNAP benefits</p>
ACCES-VR Dennis M	Anyone interested in knowing more about the ACCES-VR program, employer incentives for hiring persons with disabilities or topics related to disability awareness or disability etiquette, please let me know.
SUNYAB-RESTORE Rene P	The program has repackaged financial assistance to include scholarships. Currently these are being offered for Trocaire and B.O.C.E.S. Job readiness workshops done at Somerset House and Cazenovia Recovery. Actively looking for other sites for workshops.
NACS- Colleen Casali	NACS is expanding its program to cover 17 counties. Colleen is currently a department of one and wears many hats. The focus is on education funding for tuition and books. All contact with participants is virtual. Eligibility is based upon enrolled natives or their direct descendants. When in doubt, have interested parties apply to see if they qualify. Among the different programs at NACS are elders, food pantry and workforce/education.
NEXT MEETING -	Meetings in 2021 will take place via Webex at 9am on the 4 th Wednesday of the month unless otherwise specified. Our next Meeting is Wednesday, February 24.
2021 Meetings	<p>Remaining Meetings for 2021</p> <p>February 24th March 24 April 28 May 26 June 23 July 28 August 25 September 22 October 27 November 24 December 22</p>