



Niagara County Workforce Development Group
Trott Center, 1001 Eleventh Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301-2101

MONTHLY MEETING – March 4, 2020

Present:

Dennis M., Joe B1, Michael K., Karen K., Michael C., Jola S., Kathy K., Chandra W.

Location: Niagara County Center for Economic Development 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

We wished Joe B1 a very happy, if not a tad belated, birthday 🐉

NCE &T Kathy Krebs said that she is retiring from her position as Business & One Stop Services Manager at the end of this month. She introduced **Chandra Wingrove** to the group as who is the new person in this role. Chandra comes with experience in working with high risk populations including job seekers who are justice involved. Goodbye Kathy, Hello Chandra.

Michael Kearny said that he has two customized training programs in the process of development. One each at Health System Services and Cascades. Cascades is a Niagara Falls company that makes paper products and is also interested in OJT. Starting wage there is \$19/hr. Active OJT programs number 11. Caron Manufacturing company is on their third one as the other two previous did not work out.

Erie County is back in the OJT funding arena as a result of Niagara County transferring funds.

Spring Career Fair in NF has maxed out at 74 Businesses registered to participate. There are an additional 4 companies on a waiting list.

An NT career fair is in the works for June 10 or 17. The Knights of Columbus Hall is being considered as the new location. There will be no LP

career fair this year based on declining numbers of job seekers in recent years.

There was a general discussion and lots of speculation about an Amazon Distribution Center coming to GI and what this might mean for Niagara County.

Niagara County Economic Development Center-Michael Casale – Outreach A Town of LP company called Poly One, maker of Polymer compounds was recently contacted. More information to follow.

Small Business Workshops- this year the Cities in Niagara County are being targeted. The first of these will take place on April 15 in Niagara Falls at City Hall at 9:30 am. See link below for other locations & dates
<https://www.niagaracountybusiness.com/news/article/current/2020/02/24/100031/2020-niagara-county-free-business-workshops-series-announced>

Niagara County Agribusiness Outreach Forum will contain a panel of area experts, along with several breakout sessions for more in-depth discussion on key areas including crop diversification, agri-tourism, labor compliance and succession planning. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives and hear about key resources from local, state and federal agricultural and economic development agencies. **Program is free and will take place on Friday, April 3, 2020, starting at 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County which is sponsoring this event along with, Niagara USA Chamber, NCCC Small Business Development Center, Niagara County Farm Bureau, National Grid ,et al.

Additional information was shared in relation to bringing new talent into the region. Invest Buffalo- Niagara is a player in this game to attract the 25-30-year old's back to the area. A workshop is scheduled for 3/19, 8 -1.30 in association with Phillips Lytle.

DSS- Joe B1 Did we mention that March 3 was his Birthday?

OTDA-Jola Is happy to be here

NCCC- Karen

Application made for **Workforce Development Challenge Grant**. We will know the awardees in June.

IT Networking Support Grant is exciting because it is based upon real IT training that Google does with their employees. The college will offer this as a hybrid course that can be taken independently and self-paced online or with assistance from faculty either remotely or in person. It is an 8 month course that costs \$1500 but will enable graduates to compete for good paying IT jobs. There are now 30 companies that are looking for people with these credentials. One of the companies is KeyBank.

The SUNY Training grant for several companies is progressing and will be completed by June.

Medical Billing, Pharm Tech and Sterile Processing is doing well with 8,20 and 18 students, respectively.

The G.O.A.L.S Program is progressing slowly and needs students.

Savor- The restaurant at the Culinary Institute in NF is open again with and is now 100% student run. Prix Fixe menu \$15 for lunch and \$25 for Dinner

ACCES-VR- Dennis

Spring 2020 Diversity Career Fair on March 26 at the Central Public Library, downtown Buffalo, 10 to Noon, open to the public. 35 Businesses expected. See attached.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND LOCATION FOR Next Meeting:
THURSDAY, April 9, 2020 at TROTT Center, Room 2R on the
2 ½ floor.

The remaining meeting dates for 2020 are as follows. All are First Wednesdays and all at Niagara County Center for Economic Development 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive Vantage Center, Suite One, Sanborn, NY 14132 unless otherwise noted:

(March 25, 2020 -Career Fair NF)

May 6, 2020

June 3, 2020

July – NO MEETING

August 5, 2020

September 2, 2020

October 7, 2020

November 4, 2020

December 2, 2020 Holiday

Luncheon