

Future Workforce – Summer and School-Year News

Early August 2009 – Issue VIII

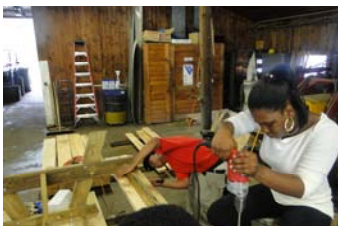


Hartford Residents Clear Trails in Union, CT

On August 5, 2009, I visited Bigelow Hollow State Park in Union, CT to learn about Hartford Communities That Care's program with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The program consists of clearing the trails and fixing up picnic tables, cleaning up state parks and fixing and cleaning roads.

Nine youths work Tuesday through Thursday. The majority are out-of-school youths and two are still in-school. The out-of-school youth don't plan on staying out-of-school for long. Mishika plans to go to Trinity College in the fall, and Jessica plans to get her G.E.D.

Leading the program are Andrew Woods with Hartford Communities that Care and Mark and Rachel who work for *No Child Left Inside*, a special initiative of CT Governor M. Jodi Rell, coordinated by the CT Department of Environmental Protection.



Except for the unfortunate bug bite every now and then the youths in the program liked the challenge and new experiences



New Britain Counselors Find "Cool" Ways To Refresh The Community

On July 29, 2009, I visited the Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program worksite at CPS Properties (Konover) where youth participants started a summer camp for the neighborhood children.

The kids attending the camp live in the neighborhood and go to the camp for free. The camp runs Monday through Friday from 11 am to 5 pm. The youths employed by Capital Workforce Partners and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, were hired as camp counselors through HRA of New Britain.

Yesterday's encounter with the camp was quite pleasant. While there, I saw some water games. One game in particular was very interesting. The kids were separated into teams, blindfolded and told to take their shoes off and put their feet in a small pool full of water with soap and marbles in it. The point of game was to get the marbles out of the pool with their toes. On other days, the kids go through the day playing games, doing arts and crafts activities and going on field trips. The counselors and the kids seem to get along great.

The purpose of the program is to give the neighborhood kids something positive to do during the summer. A lot of people have figured out that youth with nothing to do usually are the ones who turn to troublemaking to help ease boredom. The camp provides them with place to release their unique energies in a positive way while also having fun. From what I observed, the youth and counselors are having a good time.

By
Antoine Harris –
Summer
Youth Employment
Participant with the
Connecticut Puerto
Rican Forum
and Capital
Workforce Partners



Future Workforce initiatives including summer and year-round employment programs and Career Connections are convened and funded by Capital Workforce Partners and delivered by our exemplary partner agencies.

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Eight High School Interns Learn to “Look For Trouble” At Aetna



“Look for trouble” said Aetna’s Chairman and CEO Ron Williams when he addressed college and high school interns this summer. Eight Capital Workforce Partners (CWP) high school interns have done nothing less than look for trouble, as Mr. Williams would say, by challenging themselves to take advantage of Aetna’s unique business culture. Nonetheless, these interns have proven themselves resourceful and valuable assets in their respective areas, at Aetna Insurance Company.

When asked, what is in it for them, the interns unanimously agreed that their CWP summer experience is invaluable.

Aleris Echevarria, a recent graduate of the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, feels that “The CWP experience has allowed me to “grow up” in a sense, and has given me the chance to become more independent.” One might ask how a job can prove to be so valuable. As a CWP Career Connections intern, I can say, we do not simply have jobs. We are participating in educational enrichment in real life business. The immediate benefit of this learning experience is the ability to develop skills that are impossible to acquire by reading a book.

Micai Tucker, also an Aetna CWP intern, attests to her managers being “very helpful in teaching [her] how to better market [her] self and make a positive impression.” This in turn has improved her networking skills.

What are the days like for these privileged CWP interns? Days are full of the fundamentals of the business world. However their days do not exactly mimic those of an average employee of an average business company. Because, what other interns have had the opportunity to meet with the CEO and other leaders in the

Company? More importantly, these interns are given assignments that amount to more than remembering coffee orders. Ismary Reyes who feels that the “most positive experience in her summer internship is having responsibility in a work place area, showing dedication in every assignment, and maintaining a positive attitude.”

Undoubtedly, much has been learned at Aetna this summer. Brendan Vázquez, a CWP Intern in the IT department, says candidly, that he has been able to learn “the difference between a great manager and a great leader. Essentially, the difference between the two is that you are not a leader simply because you manage. One may be a great manager but a horrible leader and vice versa.”

Capital Workforce Partners has found the recipe for a successful internship through its Career Connections program. They have coupled a beneficial learning experience with students who crave experience and opportunity. At the end of a productive day of work Aleris Echevarria sums it up, “[Interns] can appreciate this much more than a summer filled with playing in the sun all day.”

By Angela Dunnham, CWP Career Connections Intern at Aetna, former Summer Youth Employment Program Participant through Blue Hills Civic Association and a 2009 Workforce Star. Angela will be attending Dartmouth College this fall

In the photograph, Front: Left to right Angela Dunnham, Aleris Echevarria, Maria Bautista, Ismary Reyesa, Alexander Casillas Back Brendan Vázquez, Steve Cortes

Not Shown: Micai Tucker

Dodd, Lieberman Announce Committee Approval of Over \$19 Million for Connecticut Programs Including \$200,000 for Youth Career Competencies Program

WASHINGTON – The Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation that would provide \$19,085,000 for a variety of Connecticut initiatives, Senators Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) announced July 31. One of those initiatives is: \$200,000 for a youth career competencies program that provides basic education, computer literacy, and skills in problem solving, communication, and job seeking, initiated and managed by Capital Workforce Partners.

“These funds will provide a much-needed boost to projects and programs across Connecticut,” said Senator Dodd. “Every dollar in this legislation is an investment in the future,” said Senator Lieberman. The legislation now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

A Glimpse of the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program – Workers in Action

<p>A high school and college intern working side-by-side on the news clippings for the mayor's office at the City of Hartford</p> 	<p>Getting some retail experience at Marshalls – as part of the Urban League's Summer Youth Employment Program</p> 	<p>Edward Brown (l) and Israel Gonzales (r) at Guidas Dairy in New Britain, part of the HRA program.</p> 
<p>Latino Community Services Organization in the Urban League of Greater Hartford Program</p> 	<p>Developing Social Marketing Campaigns for Young Studios – as a part of the Urban League's program</p> 	<p>CT Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America – a City of Hartford / HFPG funded Tier II Program</p> 
<p>Bristol Community Organization's Youth Program at Sheppard Meadows – Painting Fences</p> 	<p>Artist's Collective's Hartford funded Tier II Summer Program Production "<i>Rites of Passage</i>" <i>Defining Grace</i></p> 	<p>Working at the Industrial Museum of New Britain – part of the Consolidated School District of New Britain – CCSU program</p> 

Photos above by: Antoine Harris, Ted Tencza and Kelly Schmidt

Career Connections – Tier IV - What's it all About?

An adjunct to the sought-after Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program that provides learning and employment opportunities to youths 14+ (Tiers I – III), this top-end, Tier IV program and year-round opportunity provides additional, meaningful exposure to private sector workplaces through a number of high-touch initiatives i.e.:

- Career Exploration Days
- Job Shadowing Opportunities
- Field Trips and Company Tours
- Internships and Pre-Apprenticeships
- *And, more*



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None...

of these future workforce development, career competency building and year-round youth employment and learning activities could happen without the generosity of funders who care about the region's youth, and about the workforce needs of businesses that keep Connecticut competitive.

**U.S. Department of Labor –
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

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The Aetna Foundation

American Savings Foundation

Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

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Be sure to include your name, title, and
contact information.**

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