

# Future Workforce – Summer and Year-Round News

March-April 2008

## Career Exploration

**Advocacy – Young Adults Ask Legislators to Support Youth Employment Opportunities**



On March 18<sup>th</sup>, students from around the state gathered to tour the Legislative Office Building and State Capitol, asking legislative leaders for their support of summer and year-round employment and learning opportunities. Shown here are area youth with State Representative and Assistant Majority Leader Peter Tercyak of New Britain.

**Rent-a-Career? Youths Explore Career Paths in Retail including this one at a nearby Rental Car Business...** CREC youngsters visit Enterprise to tour the facility and ask what types of careers are available in a well-known car rental business.



**Career Connections – Over 25 Students from Multiple Schools and Organizations Have a Career Day at Travelers**



Travelers hosted a morning of learning and a mock career fair with various personnel from across the company for young people at the high schools in Hartford and Manchester. One of the goals was to get them ready for the upcoming Career Exploration Expo on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The morning was well received by all.

Students left feeling prepared and more knowledgeable about the insurance industry. They also got a sense of how their career aspirations might fit in that industry. This event “brought to life” all the skills and career competencies these students learned in after-school, year-round programming.



*Future Workforce initiatives including year-round career explorations and Career Connections are convened and funded by Capital Workforce Partners and delivered by our exemplary partner agencies.*

*Capital Workforce Partners – One Union Place – Hartford, CT 06103 [www.capitalworkforce.org](http://www.capitalworkforce.org) 860-522-1111*

## Travelling to Travelers Again – This Time, the Claims University in Windsor.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Tier 1 students ages 14-16 from CREC had an Introduction to the Insurance Industry. They learned about the claims process and what occupations are involved in the insurance business. They got an opportunity to see damages resulting from natural disasters, car crashes, fires etc. and also learned how a claims adjustor approaches the measurement of risk and assessments.



## Hartford Area Businesses are Mobilized to Engage the Future Workforce Career Exploration Expo – April 30<sup>th</sup>

Employers will be gathering at Union Station in Hartford for a very exclusive opportunity specifically designed for students in Year-Round Employment and Learning Programs and CHIP, Hartford's internship program. This event will be an opportunity for employers to:

- Proactively build their future workforce
- Expose students to various fields/industries within the Greater Hartford area
- Recruit summer interns for their summer positions
- Help students learn how to navigate within a Career/Job Fair

*Here is a glimpse of last year's Career Expo*



## Businesses Planning to Staff the Career Exploration Expo '08:

- |   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| - Aetna   | - Barnes Aerospace                                  | - Hartford Board of Education |
| - Pepperidge Farm, Inc.                         | - Cooperative Systems                               | - Six Flags New England       |
| - MDC   | - Organized Parents Make a Difference               | - Fuss & O'Neill Technologies |
| - AT&T  | - Attorney Shawn Council                            | - Sovereign Bank              |
| - INROADS                                       | - Connecticut State Police                          | - Capital Workforce Partners  |
| - Travelers                                     | - City of Hartford Fire Dept                        | - The Hartford Courant        |
| - XL Center                                     | - ShopRite of Manchester                            | - Lincoln Financial           |
| - Webster Bank                                  | - CT Culinary Institute                             | - 360 Federal Credit Union    |
| - American Eagle Credit Union                   | - St. Francis Hospital                              | - March of Dimes              |
| - Connecticut Landmarks                         | - New England Spring and Metal Stamping Association |                               |
| - Eastern CT Health Network                     | - Thompson Gould Page, LLC                          |                               |
| - GKN Aerospace Services Structures Corporation |   | - Metal Testing Company       |
| - Mt. Laurel Sr. Living Center                  | <b>Colleges: Trinity College - CCSU</b>             | <b>- St. Joseph College</b>   |

# Future Workforce – New Britain

**Career Week at OIC** – April 21<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of Career Week at Opportunities Industrialization Center in New Britain. Each day, Tier I high school freshman and juniors had the opportunity to hear from a broad range of speakers and occupational experts. The line up was masterfully put together by Gerry Berthiaume, Future Workforce Coordinator for the New Britain Chamber of Commerce, a position made possible by Capital Workforce Partners, the Community Foundation of New Britain and the City of New Britain. *PHOTO – Monday's guest speaker event with Bob Maxon, Meteorologist with NBC-TV-30. Other speakers included: Art Schaller, Jr. (automotive); Kim Andrews (Nursing); Mayor Tim Stewart (Government); George Springer Jr. (law); Tamie Martin (Hospitality) and Joann Dean (manufacturing); Kyong Wilson, (finance); Dr. Lora Miller, DVM (Veterinary Medicine); Terrence Ferrarotti (EMS); Paul Lombardo (Recording); Kathy Pirog (Sports Medicine); Anne Pilla; Donald Murray (Retail); Officer Carol Zesut (Law Enforcement) and John Atashian (Photography)*



## None...

*of these Career Connections 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 future workforce needs of businesses that keep Connecticut competitive.*

*State of Connecticut – CT Department of Labor*

*Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*Northeast Utilities Foundation*

*The Travelers Foundation*

*The Phoenix Foundation*

*The Aetna Foundation*

*The Hartford Courant Foundation*



## *Career Connections and Year Round School-to-Career Programming. What's it all About?*

### **Year-Round Programming**

In response to feedback from business leaders and recruiters, as well as from the region's young people particularly in the urban areas that Capital Workforce Partners serves, there has been a shift to a year-round focus for future workforce development.

### **Experiences with Private Sector Business**

Experiences in the private sector are made available to high school seniors through *Career Connections* and to younger students through Year-Round Youth Employment and Learning Initiatives.



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 opportunities provide additional, meaningful exposure to the private sector workplace through a number of high-touch initiatives such as:



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

To obtain more information, contact Program Coordinator Dennis Mink at 860-522-1111 x343 or [dmink@capitalworkforce.org](mailto:dmink@capitalworkforce.org).

*Career Connections* was launched in the Fall of 2006, and year-round initiatives were expanded this school year. Here's a glimpse of some of the year-round activities.

<b>December 2007</b> – Assessment of Student Skills and Interests	<b>March 2008</b> – Mock Interviews; Continued Assessments
<b>January 2008</b> – Job Readiness Training Workshops – Resume Writing; Dress for Success; Interviewing Skills; Job Retention Strategies; Career Growth Planning	<b>April 2008</b> – Career Exploration Expo – Wed. April 30 3pm – 5pm – One Union Place, Hartford
<b>February 2008</b> – Job Shadowing Opportunities, Workshops and Follow-Up	<b>May/June 2008</b> – Job Search, Potential Placements, Continued Career Counseling to Jump Start a Successful Career

**Would you like to submit an article to the *Career Connections* Newsletter? Simply send an email to: [srodriguez@capitalworkforce.org](mailto:srodriguez@capitalworkforce.org). Be sure to include your name, title, and contact information.**