

# Future Workforce – Summer and Year-Round News

May / June 2008

## Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program Youth from Pathways Senderos WINS 2008 New Britain Youth of the Year Award



**Meet Angelica Zapata.** Angelica, a 17 year old senior at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, is an amazing young woman! Among her MANY accomplishments, Angelica:

- Is E.C Goodwin's Vice President of Skills USA, the national competition for technical high schools to display their abilities in the trades.
- Has served on the school newspaper and excels as one of the only females in the Auto trade at school.
- Has been a member of Greater New Britain's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Inc.'s Pathways Senderos Center since she was in 6th grade
- Has been part of the CT Forum's youth panel for the Debate on Global Warming where she participated in a discussion with important government policy makers, news people and nationally acclaimed writers.
- She, along with 10 of her peers, composed a book this past summer as part of her involvement in Capital Workforce Partners Summer Youth Employment Program
- Because of the buzz the book created, she was asked to appear and discuss the book on National Public Radio's "The Faith Middleton Show."
- She also was selected to take part in St. Joseph's College Summer Health and Medical Science Program.

- She is actively involved with True Colors Inc. where for the past two years she has served as a Tender Loving Care counselor.
- She has accomplished all this while gaining and maintaining a part time job at Stop + Shop.
- She plans to be a Veterinarian for low-income families when she finishes college.

Angelica has already been accepted and plans on attending Bethany College in West Virginia in the fall and will be the first in her family to attend college.

## The CTWorks One-Stops Get Some Future Workforce Action



Hartford High School offered an "In School Field Trip" on April 29, 2008 to thirty special education students from ninth to twelfth grade. Michael Marino, Alberto Montanez and Ruth Carvahlo from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), Deanna Mancino and Danielle Lewis from Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Brandon McGee, Jr. from Our Piece of the Pie (OPP), and LeighAnn Tyson from the Board of Education City of Hartford provided information and hands on activities to assist the students with establishing short term and long term goals. Evelyn Quintero proudly displays her "mind mapping" activity.

*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

## Saturday, May 31 – Talk About Race in Hartford - at the Pequot Museum

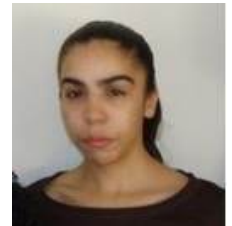
Hartford high school students reflected on the ways urban youth experience race and racism. Last summer these teens conducted their own community research project and produced a documentary on race as part of an Institute for Community Research's program.



(One of CWP's Year Round Initiatives) They created a mobile mural on the topic, working with artists Victor Pachecho and Luella Pavey; the mural will be on display in the Museum Atrium until June 16.

## Hartford Youth Wins Distinguished Bank of America Student Leadership Award

Brenda Lee Santiago, a junior at Hartford Public High School and a member of the CWP-funded Institute for Community Research's (ICR) year-round youth employment and learning program was selected to participate in the Bank of America's Student Leaders Program. The Leadership program seeks to support the next generation of community leaders by selecting high school leaders from around the country who have a passion for improving their community. In her successful application, Brenda explained her commitment to community service through volunteer work at the Salvation Army, the significance of her research and action work at ICR around the issue of how racism affects Hartford Teens, her desire to improve her neighborhood and the important support and inspiration that her mother has provided to her over the years.



As a student leader, Brenda will participate in an eight-week paid internship this summer at the Boys and Girls Club and will join with other youth around the country in a week-long Student Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. in July. The summit is designed to provide youth with valuable civic, social and business leadership skills.

## Meet Tier 1 Youth from OIC – Opportunities Industrialization Centers in New Britain



Meet Zachary Grabka and Shaun Smith, both Freshmen at New Britain High School and participants in the Tier 1 Year Round Youth Programming.

Here are others in the "Keeping It R.E.A.L." program at their formal dinner for youth who had to Dress to Impress



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# 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*

*The Aetna Foundation*

*American Savings Foundation*

*City of Hartford*

*Community Foundation of Greater New Britain*

*Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*New Alliance Foundation*

*Northeast Utilities Foundation*

*The Phoenix Foundation*

*The Travelers Foundation*

*The Hartford Courant Foundation*

*United Way of New Britain and Bristol*



## ***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.**