

# Northwest Regional Workforce Innovation Bulletin

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING @ 249  
THOMASTON AVE, WATERBURY; 12 PM 6/13/19

## MANUFACTURING

The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) is pleased to announce it has received a \$1,250,000 award from the Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative to focus on addressing the shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing sector. This regional partnership comprises the following entities: Manufacturing Alliance Service Corporation, Northwestern CT Community College, Naugatuck Valley Community College, CT Technical High Schools, Torrington H.S., Danbury H.S., New Milford, H.S. and Waterbury high schools along with sixteen employers throughout the northwest workforce region (which includes Waterbury, Torrington and Danbury), and several business associations and chambers of commerce.

Manufacturing accounts for nearly 12% of the region's economy, contributing over \$3.4 billion a year to the region's gross regional product (GRP) and a little over 10% of total employment. This partnership will serve the employment needs of individuals residing in all 41 towns within the Northwest region, and will focus on those areas with the most concentrated employment needs. The project will provide separate training programs by creating pipelines of: (i) in the 11th or 12th grade and (ii) 18 years of age or older who are not currently enrolled in 11th or 12th grade. Individuals seeking training in the manufacturing field are urged to visit our website [www.nrwib.org](http://www.nrwib.org) for program updates and enrollment information.

Employers interested in learning more about the partnership are encouraged to contact Cathy Awwad at [catherine.awwad@nrwib.org](mailto:catherine.awwad@nrwib.org).

## PARTNERING WITH UBER

We have partnered with Uber to create a pilot program which enables us to provide transportation assistance to our Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) participants. This is one more way we can address lack of transportation as a barrier to employment, which is especially useful in our more rural municipalities where public transportation is not easily accessible.

# What's Working in Workforce?

VOLUME ONE, EDITION THREE; MAY 2019



## JOB SEEKER ASSISTANCE

Waterbury, CT- The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) is pleased to announce it has received a \$50,000 grant from Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) to foster and promote workforce development throughout 41 municipalities in the northwest corner. These funds will be used to directly assist job seekers in the way of supporting: job training, childcare cost support, transportation assistance and other job-related costs. Training stipends will also be provided to enable low-income individuals to complete short-term job training programs.

The NRWIB is one of five workforce development boards in the state to receive this grant which will support case management and support services that are led by the board. These funds will assist with our endeavor to continue promoting business growth and economic opportunity by expediting talent matching and providing access to training programs that address skill gaps.

“These funds help supplement our funding to help those hardest to serve participants secure meaningful employment and enter career pathways.”- Catherine Awwad, Executive Director, NRWIB

## YOUTHBUILD

The NRWIB has partnered with Habitat of Humanity of Greater Waterbury, Waterbury Police Activity League and Waterbury Adult Continuing Education to implement this initiative. Youth (ages 16-24) will learn vocational skills in construction while also providing community service through the required construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement.

Applications are currently being accepted, visit our website [www.nrwib.org](http://www.nrwib.org) for more information.