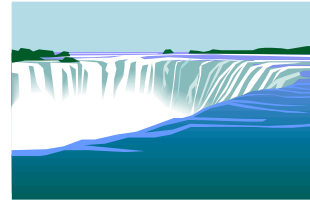


# Niagara County Workforce Development Group

## TEAMS Meeting

Wednesday, APRIL 16, 2025 @ 9 a.m. VIRTUAL  
Notes/Minutes



Item	Result
Welcome/ Introductions	Dennis M., Bonnie R., Mike K., Karen K., Joe B., Sherry F.
REPORTS Alphabet soup	
Mike K. Niagara County Employment & Training	<p>13 active OJTs: Some sites have more than one active OJT.</p> <p>Involved with the Renewable Energy Training Initiative grant (RETI) from the NY Power Authority - OJTs (and CRTs) for individuals transitioning into the clean, green, renewable energy fields.</p> <p>Outreach - Viridi Parenti in Buffalo is a maker of Lithium Ion Batteries has expressed interest. WNY Energy in Medina, a large Ethanol producer, is also a possibility.</p>
Bonnie R. Niagara County WDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released Request for Proposals for One-Stop System Operator.</li> <li>Awaiting potential additional funding to cover Youth classroom training, Disability Resource Coordinator services.</li> <li>Met with Quinn McMahon, DOL's WNY Regional Commissioner's Rep. Quinn will tour the Career Center soon.</li> <li>Reviewing customer data, one by one, to ensure the good work we do is accurately reflected in performance measures.</li> <li>Attending meetings with CEDS, WDB Executive Committee, WDB Innovative Employment Committee, FLPPS, Voss Mfg and others, and SUNY Niagara.</li> <li>If you know of any clean/green energy employers or any pre-apprenticeship programs, please let me know.</li> </ul>
Karen K.- Niagara University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agrees with Joe that Niagara Land Bank buildings on Main Street are in rough shape but at least they are being honest about their condition and is cautiously optimistic about the project because of involvement from NYS unlike the failed Blue Cardinal project</li> <li>Doing Hospitality course for students with disabilities at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Cardinal O'Hara is the only non-public school in WNY that has a special ed program</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NU had received a Cyber Security Certificate of Excellence only one of three colleges to receive this in NYS and only one in outside of NYC. Others were Fordham and NYU.</li> </ul>
Sherry F. - Niagara Pride	<p>Sherry Fossett is the Program Chair for the Niagara Pride Center. Sherry is a retiree from US Customs.</p> <p>The Pride Center has moved to new digs at the Pinnacle Building, 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls and is enjoying regular office hours.</p> <p>Open House and Drag N Donuts last week.</p> <p>Received grant for youth drop in at center.</p> <p>Survey community to determine needs</p> <p>Pride month activities this June include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5k Fun Run/Walk, 9A-2P Saturday May 10, at SUNY Niagara. Actual 5k starts at 10A</li> <li>• PRIDE N.O.W (Newfane, Olcott, Wilson) family friendly event, Saturday, June 7, 11A-4P</li> <li>• LP Pride, Saturday, June 14, 11A to 5P at the Kenan Center</li> <li>• NT, Oliver Street Pride, Saturday, June 21, Heritage Park, Times TBA</li> <li>• Rainbow City Pride- Niagara Falls official event. Saturday, June 28, 1 to 6P, Old Falls Street.</li> </ul>
Joe B. NYSDOL	<p>A job fair will be held at the Lockport Career Center on May 7.</p> <p>SUNY Niagara will hold a large job fair at the college on May 24 that is open to the public</p> <p>Attended a tour of buildings for the current Main Street NF revitalization project. Many of the buildings are in dire disrepair.</p>

<p>ACCES-VR Dennis M</p>	<p>The IE committee is planning a <b>career exploration event</b> at the ON BOCES conference center for HS students (grades 9-12) with disabilities in Niagara and Orleans Counties on October 15. We hope to have a variety of displays, talks and demos related to various occupations, including the trades, manufacturing and health care indoors and outdoors.</p> <p><b>Thursday, April 10, was Spring Diversity Career Fair, Public Library downtown Buffalo, 10:30a – 12:30p</b>, 44 Businesses and about 200 job seekers. Job fair event is open to the public as a project of the Diversity Committee of the BNHRA and is supported by ACCES-VR, NYSDOL, Workforce Buffalo, Erie County Office for People with Disabilities, Catholic Health among others. Next event is October 23.</p> <p><b>Career Mentoring Day</b> with Roswell Park CCC on 4/10/25. Thirteen area HS students with disabilities participated in tours and talks about occupations in various departments at Roswell including pharmacology and public safety. Lunch for students was included.</p> <p><b>NDEAM- National Disability Employment Awareness Month</b> We are looking for companies who have benefitted from hired persons with disabilities in WNY for Business Award nominations. Let me know if you have a business in mind for this. Last year there was a nomination/award from NCE&amp;T. Awards luncheon will be in October, date TBA.</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING – MICROSOFT TEAMS on <b>MAY14, 2025, via TEAMS</b></p>