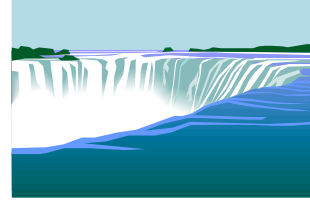


Niagara County Workforce Development Group
WEBEX Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 @ 9 a.m. VIRTUAL
Notes/Minutes



Item	Result
Welcome/ Introductions	Dennis M., Mike C., Bonnie R., Kimberly C., Joe B.
REPORTS Alphabet soup	
Niagara County WDB- Bonnie R.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10/23 at SUNY Niagara - WDB Inclusion Committee's Career Exploration Fair for Niagara County students, grades 9-12, who have disabilities. Employers will provide hands-on activities or demonstrations, both inside and outside on campus. SUNY Niagara will provide a tour of their hands-on labs.• Attended Career Exploration Fair in Elma on 4/17 to understand the logistics for our upcoming event.• 5/15 at 8:30am - free Zoom "DEI: What How Why" event - Topic is Making Accommodations Reasonable for All.• Attended 4/23 Destination Niagara tourism/hospitality season kickoff. John Perry said 90-100 business people attended, largest group ever.• Attended 4/25 Greater Lockport Development Corp's business mixer to connect businesses to Career Center services.• Attended 1199 SEIU DEI training session.• Trained DSS Employment Unit employees in OSOS, so they can view the case notes for their customers. DSS and NCET are strengthening their relationship to better serve our mutual customers.• NYS's annual surveys (one for job seekers, one for businesses) have been extended until May 10th for people to complete the surveys. This data is then compiled into annual statewide reports, so local input by our customers and businesses will help their voices be heard at the state level.• Job Seeker: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7804654/2024-Job-Seeker-Survey• Business: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7804738/2024-Business-Workforce-Survey

NCCED- Mike C.

Economic development is workforce development.
You can't have one without the other.

Retention

YTD

Reached out to 29 companies which resulted in
21 meetings with 20 companies
9 are taking advantage of Niagara Production program

Niagara County Production Program

The Niagara County Production Program provides matching grants for the purchase of machinery or equipment that will enhance a company's competitiveness. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available with a dollar-for-dollar match from project sponsors. Eligible applicants include for-profit businesses located in Niagara County. Applicants must have owned the business prior to January 2020 to be eligible for funding.

<https://www.niagaracountybusiness.com/niagara-county-production-program>

Façade Program

Following the success of its first façade program that was created in 2022, the Niagara County Legislature authorized Façade Program 2.0, offering matching grants up to \$50,000 for qualified business to make exterior capital improvements to their properties. This program is administered by the Niagara County Center for Economic Development.

The William G. Mayne, Jr. Business/Community

Enhancement Program was established in 1998 to enhance and enrich the business climate and overall landscape in Niagara County's communities. The program offers cash grants of up to \$5,000 to business associations for the purposes of assisting plans for brick-and-mortar community improvements as well as creating marketing materials such as brochures promoting business districts.

Site Development-

Cambria Tech Park- No Solar arrays can be included but will be home to many other technology projects. \$2.2 M in state funding for development.

Amazon Site- 3 million Sq ft. structure will be largest of its kind in WNY and 5th largest in the world.

NYSDOL- Joe B.	<p>Job Fairs</p> <p>Lockport Career Fair on the 29th- 20 employers expected. Niagara Falls Library in April had 35 businesses. Virtual Career Fair on 5/15, 45 businesses expected. Virtual Career Center is business driven where companies can view resumes directly without DOL screening. Another career fair is expected in Niagara Falls near the end of June. Amherst Career Fair 5/9 – Northpoint Parkway, 80 employers expected. 220 North Pointe Parkway. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>
Niagara County DSS-Kimberly C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSS is interested in collaboration with other organizations for workforce development, employment projects that could benefit DSS recipients. • Staff training with Bonnie about Career Center and with Dennis about VR services.
ACCES-VR Dennis M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Diversity Career Fair was April 25 at 10:30-12:30 at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library located in Downtown Buffalo. 33 employers and a steady stream of about 200 job seekers throughout. We were impressed because there were at least two other career fairs happening the same day. • Virtual Panel discussion on May 15, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Topic is Making Reasonable Accommodations reasonable for all. Offered as a bonus for career fair vendors. Panel made up of VR and HR folks and created in response to a question raised by Joel F. of The Home Depot. A virtual encore performance on May 15, see Bonnie's comments above.
NEXT MEETING	NEXT MEETING – WEBEX on June 12.