

**Niagara WDB Youth Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, January 17, 2025**  
**10:30 Am Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Lindsay Collins of Collins Accounting, Bonnie Rice of Niagara County WDB, Dennis Martinez of ACCES-VR, Dawn Cody of Niagara County Development & Training, Judy Arlington-Post Grad Transition Coordinator for Lockport City School District.

- We welcomed Judy Arlington-Post Grad Transition Coordinator for Lockport City School District.
- Dawn Cody discussed the YEP (Youth Employment Program). NYS has changed the eligibility requirements from a summer youth program to a yearly program, there are 94 kids are currently on payroll with 85 enrollments including the back log plus 30 brand new applicants. Any students active in school and out of school are eligible to apply.
- Dennis Martinez discussed the Career Exploration Fair which was canceled last year but this year they have secured a location at the BOCES location on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of October. Date will be updated once the committee can commit to a date. It is open to the public, especially to high school students with disabilities. This Fair is intended to open up new opportunities. Dennis is looking for volunteers for this event. Judy Arlington has volunteered.
- Bonnie Rice wants to create a way to accumulate information regarding existing Pre-apprenticeship Programs and Registered Apprenticeship Programs. There are grants that are accessible to us that can be utilized to help Niagara County and our youth. The program would create job security for students. Upon completion of a Pre-apprenticeship program, the individual (s) will be automatically be placed in a Registered Apprenticeship Program, without being on a waiting list. Great opportunity for students who are not college bound. One of the criteria that needs to be met is the insurance coverage for the Pre-apprenticeship that would cover the students that are enrolled, further research is necessary. Judy offered to share her materials. Please send Bonnie your thoughts and experiences with either Pre-apprenticeships or Registered Apprenticeship Programs, including any obstacles you have encountered or anticipate (such as labor laws or liability insurance requirements).

Our next meeting will be via ZOOM