

WDB Youth Committee Meeting (06/26/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting focused on youth employment initiatives, welcoming new members and discussing updates on successful placements and ongoing programs. Plans for a Career Exploration Fair for high school students with disabilities were outlined, and the committee explored the creation of a list of apprenticeship programs in Niagara County. The group also addressed concerns about future job availability due to AI advancements and scheduled their next meeting for September 11th.

Next steps

- All attendees to consider volunteering for the Career Exploration Fair on October 15th from 9 AM to 2 PM at Orleans Niagara BOCES Conference Center in Sanborn, NY.
- All attendees to email Bonnie if they are available to volunteer for the Career Exploration Fair.
- All attendees to inform Bonnie of any registered apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeship programs in Niagara County they are aware of.
- Judy to ask guidance counselors about data on students' post-graduation plans, particularly regarding non-college career paths.
- Lindsay to schedule the next meeting for September 11th at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Summary

Youth Employment Programs Update Meeting

The meeting welcomed new members, including Tiffany, Divya, Judy, Jill, and Katie, to discuss updates and opportunities related to youth employment programs. Dawn Cody shared updates on the successful placement of 112 youth in work experiences and the ongoing summer program, while Judy and Jill highlighted their roles in connecting students to work opportunities. Katie Thompson introduced herself as a representative from Matrix Imaging, expressing interest in learning more about and contributing to the youth workforce initiatives. Bonnie Rice, the Executive Director of the Niagara County Workforce Development Board, emphasized the importance of the committee and encouraged collaboration to support youth employment.

Career Exploration Fair for Students

The Innovative Employment Committee is organizing a Career Exploration Fair for high school students with disabilities in Orleans and Niagara counties on October 15th from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Orleans Niagara BOCES Conference Center. The event will feature hands-on activities and demonstrations in various career fields, with each group staying for about 2 hours. Judy inquired about the event location, and it was confirmed that the Parent

Network was able to secure the site after resolving insurance and liability issues. The committee is seeking volunteers to help with event logistics, and interested participants are encouraged to email for more information.

Niagara County Apprenticeship Program Development

The meeting focused on creating a list of registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs in Niagara County, with the executive requesting input from attendees. Judy reported that 90% of the youth she works with enter the workforce directly after high school, while Jill noted changes in high school education to include more career-ready pathways beyond college. The discussion concluded with concerns about future entry-level job availability due to AI advancements, suggesting this topic could be explored further in a future meeting.

Team Meeting Scheduling for September

The team scheduled their next meeting for September 11th at 10:30 AM on Zoom. Divya noted that September 25th wouldn't work for her, but other dates in September were fine. The group agreed to meet on September 11th after confirming it worked for everyone's schedule.