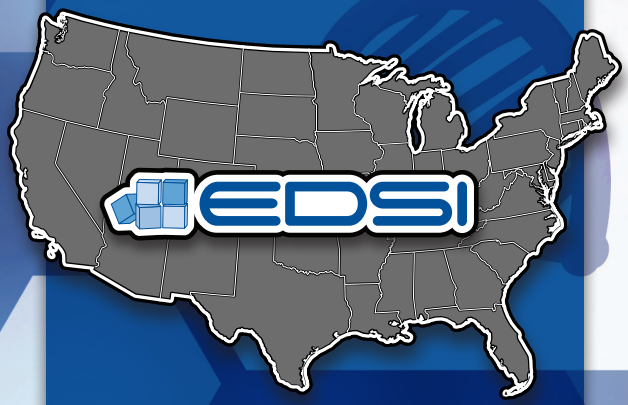
National Appeal Local Feel

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Message from the Chief Servant Leader



Click to hear from our Chief Servant Leader, Kevin Schnieders as he shares his excitement for this magazine to provide great insights, celebrate successes and promote innovation, while highlighting what our great EDSI employees are doing to serve their local regions and communities.

Award Announcement



Roe Falcone was presented the inaugural Phoenix Award by the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association at the 2022 Workforce Redesigned Conference at The Hershey Lodge, in Hershey, PA on May 4. Congratulations, Roe!









PWDA's Workforce Redesigned Conference was well-attended by many EDSI team members.

Special Projects

JFES Multi-Gen Program

Program Location: Hartford, CT

EDSI's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) Multi-Generational (Multi-Gen) program is designed to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty often experienced by JFES customers. The Multi-Gen approach addresses the needs of both children and their parents simultaneously, with the goal of creating opportunities and better outcomes for families. This research-driven model has proven successful with some of the most difficult-to-serve populations.



Embracing and supporting the whole family is what our Multi-Generational programs focus on.

Positive outcomes of Multi-Gen programs for parents include reduced stress, stronger educational and employment skills, and more confidence in their role as their child's first teacher. For example, activities such as family dinners have proven to lessen family stress, build children's social and communication skills, encourage family dialogue, and introduce children to new food experiences.

In previous years' JFES/TANIF cohorts, attendance rates ranged from 30%-60%. More than halfway through our most recent cohort, we have had over 95% attendance, not just from participants but their high school-aged children as well. The NRF curriculum is progressing well and we have arranged a job fair to take place at the end of the cohort for these participants with five different employers. The children participating in the program are receiving fantastic support, not just with their schoolwork, but also with developing social skills and emotional intelligence attained by working with our licensed social workers.

Eddystone Youth Program

Program Location: Eddystone, Delaware County, PA

The Eddystone Youth Program was designed to serve youth between the ages of 12-16 in an after-school program that provides life skills, physical activity, and helps foster healthy relationships within the community. The Delaware County team enrolled 27 Eddystone youth and made several community connections with community leaders, local restaurants, police, and administration. For example, a local pizza shop, Sciarrino's, felt instantly connected to the initiative and provided free food for the youth. The Eddystone police found it important to connect to the youth and worked with EDSI to organize a basketball game with the kids. During the 12-week program, youth were engaged in workshops such as goal setting, leadership, cultural diversity, financial literacy, networking, and teamwork. The success of the program continues to prove to be successful with parents calling to request a second cohort and youth lining up to participate. The feedback has been positive, and the staff is motivated by the youth's engagement in the program.



Connections, teamwork and physical fitness are important parts of our Eddystone Youth Program.





Best Practices

Virtual Training Information Sessions

Program Location – Bucks and Montgomery Counties (PA)

Starting in the winter of 2021, both the PA CareerLink Bucks and Montgomery Counties have launched a series of Virtual Training Information Sessions via MS Teams and Zoom to connect interested jobseekers with access to vocational training opportunities. During each session, participating training providers were given time to provide a presentation of their courses and how their vocational trainings translated into career pathways for jobseekers. So far, these sessions have included multiple training providers spanning the Logistics, Transportation, Distribution, IT, and Healthcare Industries. We believe that this was important to do as we anticipated that there would be a great need for jobseekers to acquire new skills and/or credentials as they made their way back into a labor market that is now different as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are more Virtual Training Information Sessions scheduled in the spring of 2022.

To date, the virtual sessions have been attended by 40 jobseekers – many of whom have gone on to participate/enroll in our WIOA ADW programs through training and/or other job search-related activities.

Strengthening Awareness of Partnerships

Program Location: Exton, Chester County, PA

EDSI's Chester County WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs have recently implemented a best practice to strengthen the awareness of community partners and local organizations. Herky Feroz, Chester County's WIOA Program Manager, saw the need to bring more awareness to training providers, community partners, and neighboring PA CareerLinks. Each Wednesday afternoon, the team invites one community partner/organization to the PA CareerLink, where they present the WIOA staff with information regarding their partnership, initiative, and vision. This provides the staff with the information they need to make unique community connections for each participant.

Community Organizations such as Open Hearth, Wings for Success, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Hire One, and Chester Co EARN Program and Training Providers such as NuPath and Springhouse, have all presented to the team. In addition, the team welcomed EDSI Regional Director of Operations, Andre Hardy to discuss best practices of Montgomery County and Jeannette Coleman & Tammy Garza from Lancaster County to share their 3-tier process for customers.

Tina Zeller, the Business Services Lead in Chester County stated, "learning about community partners has made it much easier for us to be a true One-Stop service provider. It provides staff a safe place to ask questions and has made me a better leader as I listen to all ideas and perspectives."

Soyica White, Chester County's Community Outreach Coordinator stated, "My experience with having our community partners conduct presentations at our weekly staff meetings have been very positive. On one hand, we're able to learn more about the services offered from the agency, which aides in making appropriate referrals for our participants in need of said service. On the other hand, the partner gets to learn about our services and often, begins to engage more with us as well as refer participants to us, whether it be for a recruitment event we're hosting or a free workshop. As Outreach Coordinator, I've noticed an increase in requests for information such as additional flyers to share with their respective communities/customers, requests for us to make presentations or to attend an event to share our services."

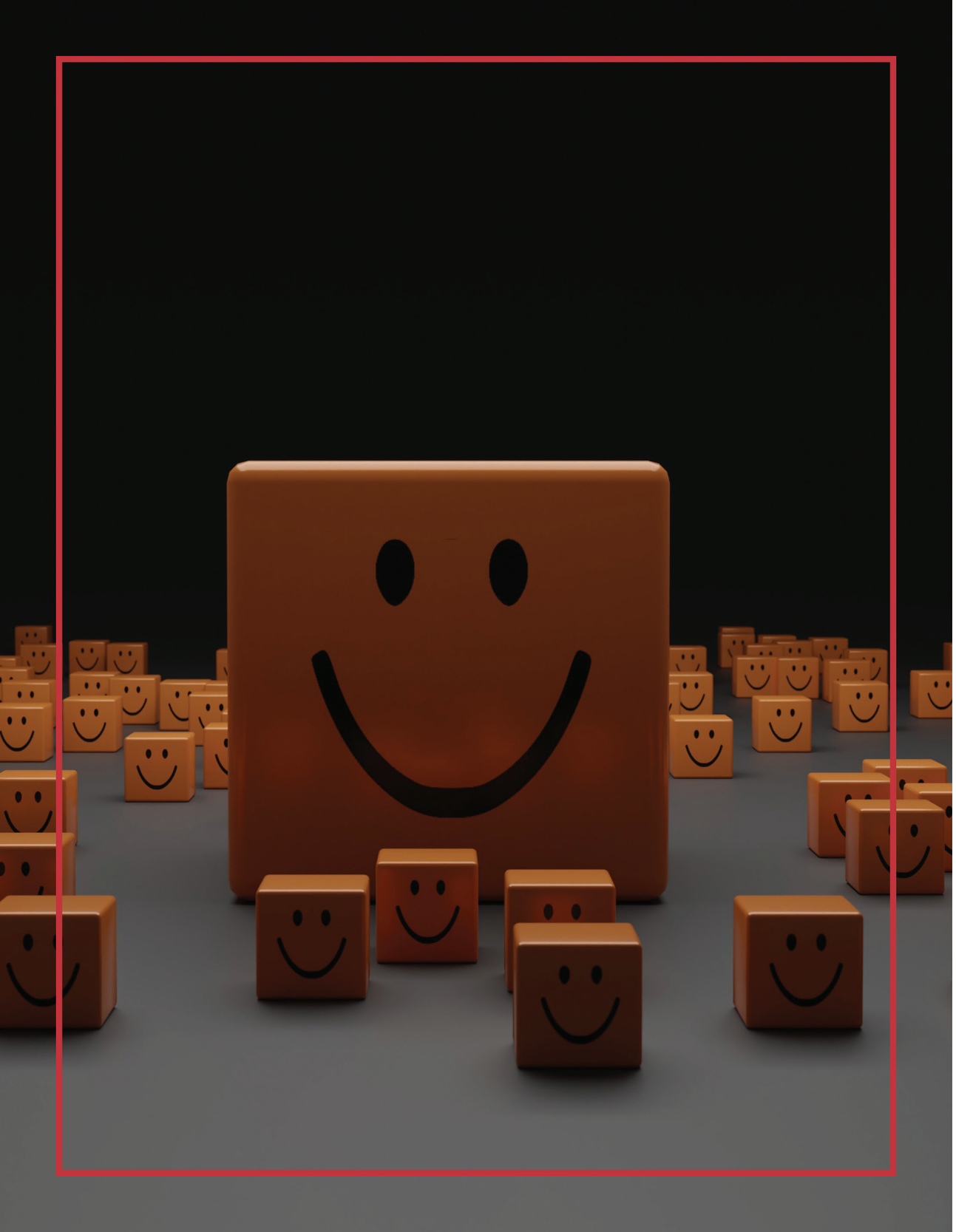
Program Innovations

Business Education Partnership Program
Program Location: Chester, Delaware County, PA

The Business Education Partnership Program made some program innovation changes this year. In the past, EDSI has hosted this program, connecting both youth and adults to industry-specific Career Acceleration Programs (CAPs). This year, the Delco team is offering Career Awareness Summer Camps for students between the ages of 11-18. Offering Career Awareness Camps will allow students the opportunity to explore industries and give them a variety of access to real-life experiences from industry professionals. Once career interests are identified, students will be further engaged through industry tours, career panels, credentials, and internship/employment opportunities.







New Business

New Opportunities Won
(January -May)

- Montgomery County Training and Career Development
- Delaware County Veterans Services
- Delaware County Business Services
- Delaware County Site Administrator
- Connecticut CWP Multi-Gen Program
- State of Missouri Student Journey Mapping Curriculum and Workshop Facilitation
- Montana Department of Labor Workforce Services Division Business Study
- Des Moines Regional Transit Authority (DART) Executive Consulting Services
- Philadelphia Works Specialized Dislocated Worker Services

EDSI Guest Columnist

Pure Partnership and True Teamwork: My CSTB Town Hall Meeting Experience

By Amy Correia, EDSI Learning & Development Lead

Every quarter, the CareerSource Tampa Bay (CSTB) Workforce Board hosts a Town Hall Meeting in Tampa, FL and I was lucky enough to be invited to the April session. Most of you who know me, know that I THRIVE on personal interaction. I love talking with as many people as possible, as often as possible! Needless to say, I was thrilled to be invited and happily drove four hours from my office in Tallahassee, FL to attend and facilitate a team-building exercise for the Town Hall attendees.

John Flanagan, CareerSource Tampa Bay CEO, thrives on bringing together the CareerSource employees, EDSI staff, board members and partners to listen, share and interact on all the latest things happening in the workforce world. He kicked off the meeting by giving a warm welcome and talked about upcoming changes and newsworthy announcements. Best of all, he took time to welcome each new team member and made a point not to call out which organization they were affiliated with – which I could tell made everyone feel they were truly part of one big team under one huge umbrella.

When it was time for the team-building exercise, everyone was divided into teams for a scavenger hunt, which challenged each group to locate objects, find things in common with each other and capture certain photographs with their phones. Spelling the word TEAM with their bodies was probably the most humorous and challenging part of the exercise! Check out the photos below.



Team members using sign language to create the word TEAM.



Forming the word TEAM



Enjoying the team-building exercise.



Using their body parts to make the word TEAM

To be a part of this unifying atmosphere was truly inspiring and I just wanted to share how wonderful it felt to be a part of this CSTB Town Hall opportunity. Please remember, we may work in different regions, states and offices, but we are all one big family, working toward one goal of serving not only our customers, but our funders and the board as well. The partnership and collaboration opportunities are endless!

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