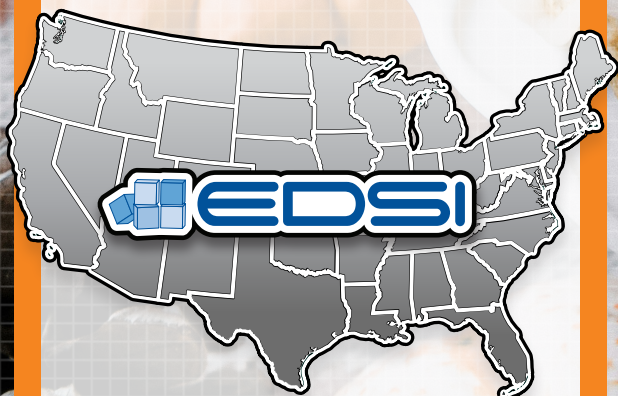


NATIONAL APPEAL Local Feel

In This Issue:

- Awards & Accolades
- Best Practices
- Program Innovations
- Special Projects
- Job Fairs
- New Business

Sept. 2024 | Volume 7



 | [EDSI.com](https://www.EDSI.com)



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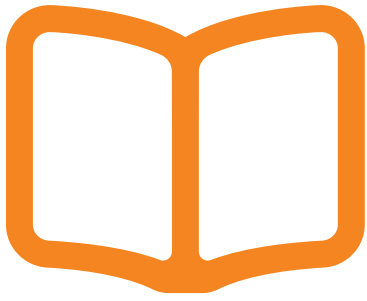
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Introducing This Month's Issue



Click to hear from our Director of Marketing Casey White as he introduces the September Edition of *National Appeal Local Feel* and speaks on EDSI's commitment to sharing its Best Practices, Innovations and Services, while also thanking and celebrating its customers, employees and communities.



Awards & Accolades

Detroit Free Press Top Workplaces

Proud to announce that EDSI has earned distinguished recognition as a Detroit Free Press Top Workplace for the 10th consecutive year. Our commitment to cultivating an exceptional work environment has been acknowledged, and we are grateful for this significant achievement.

EDSI's Delaware Valley, PA region also won a spot on the Philadelphia Top Workplaces list this year as well! This award, too, is a powerful testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering a strong culture and living our values as we fulfill our mission.



America's Greatest Workplaces Recognizes EDSI With Multiple Awards

We are thrilled to share that EDSI has been honored by Newsweek's America's Greatest Workplaces in partnership with Plant-A Insights data intelligence firm. EDSI received multiple awards, which were not actively pursued by our organization. These recognitions, based on 250,000 employee interviews, online mentions, DEI ratings, and senior management reviews, affirm what we already know—EDSI is a great place to work. We received 4 ½ stars out of 5 in four categories for small businesses across the United States, including:

- **America's Greatest Workplaces**
- **America's Greatest Workplaces for Women**
- **America's Greatest Workplaces for Parents and Families**
- **America's Greatest Workplaces for Job Starters**



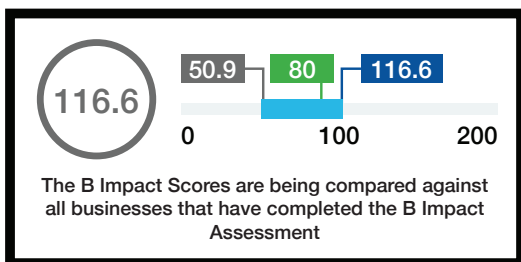
B Corp Recertification and Impact Report

In the past year, EDSI embarked on the rigorous journey of B Corp recertification, reaffirming our commitment to social and environmental responsibility, transparency, and sustainable practices. Initially certified in 2020, this recertification was more than a process—it was a great opportunity for EDSI to showcase our progress in living out B Corp’s standards and our own mission.

Over a dedicated six-month period, our B Corp Champions, Jennifer Sarkisian and Melissa Masters-Stark, led the recertification efforts, revisiting the B Impact Assessment (BIA) to thoroughly evaluate – with a B Corp auditor – our impact across workers, community, environment, and customers. Their hard work and dedication were instrumental in our successful recertification, and we couldn’t be prouder of their efforts.



Our B Score



Certified



Corporation

This company meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact

Became a B Corp:
10/23/20

Became a
Recertified B Corp:
3/21/24



Please check out our B Corp Impact Report that showcases some of the ways we strive to live up to our B Corp status and fulfill our company mission.

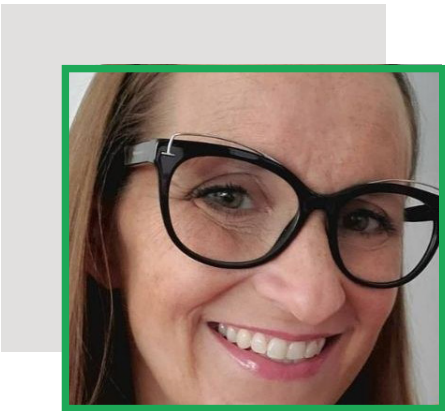


View our B Corporation page on B Lab to learn more.

GLOW Graduates Head To College Thanks in Part to Facilitator Lisa Rigsbee

Cape Fear, NC

Thanks to our Pre-ETS programming in New Hanover County and the dedication of one of our amazing facilitators, Lisa Rigsbee, four students from the 2024 graduating class of the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington (GLOW) are moving on to college.

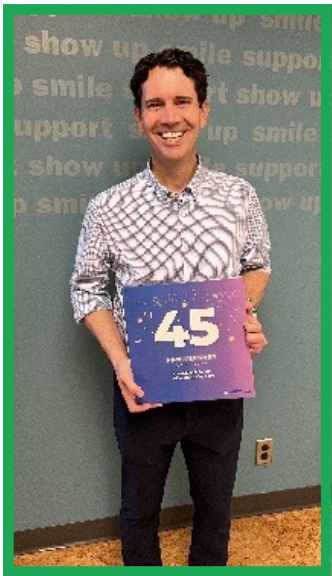


Our Pre-ETS program is designed to inspire and support students facing various challenges, helping them achieve their dreams and reach their full potential.

EDSI Turned 45 on July 16

By Jill Monte

Happy 45th Anniversary to EDSI!! We presented our CEO Kevin Schnieders with a celebratory video and a special book of memories and reflections. He was truly touched and so appreciative to our team members with 15 or more years who were invited to send in their good wishes or stories of Kevin and Bob Schnieders, Kevin’s father and EDSI’s founder.



Read more about this incredible achievement and the journey of these young leaders in this article.



Read more about EDSI’s history in our 45th Anniversary press release.



Best Practices

Case Manager Professional Development Training

Tampa Bay, FL

From May 13-15, 2024 approximately 40 case management staff at CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas (CSHP), formerly CareerSource Tampa Bay, participated in EDSI's Case Manager Professional Development Institute. The staff learned new, innovative approaches to case management while honing existing skills to better serve the residents of Hillsborough County, Florida. EDSI Learning & Development Lead, Amy Correia, guided the team through the modules.

"Great training by Amy with EDSI," said Danielle Copeland, Youth Program Coordinator of CSHP's Tampa Bay Summer Hires program. "[It] has equipped our Career Coaches with invaluable tools and strategies to empower customers and foster meaningful growth journeys. It has inspired our Career Coaches with its insightful approach, empowering them to ignite that positive and, sometimes, uncomfortable change one conversation at a time."

"Training is the cornerstone of effective case management," said April Torregiante, CSHP Vice President of Program Services. "It equips team members with the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of workforce development and empowers them to provide unparalleled support to job seekers. Through continuous learning and ethical commitment, Case Managers are better prepared to adapt to the evolving demands of the labor market and contribute to the economic growth of their communities."

As a bonus, the final day of training (which includes content about working with community partners to support job seekers) was held at the Tampa Bay Community Network's (TBCN) Media Center. TBCN is a CSHP community partner and receives funding from



the county to provide free video production classes to Hillsborough County residents ages 18 and up including a digital certification badge provided through the University of South Florida. TBCN cleared their studio for us to use as a training room and were amazing hosts!



Learn more about the training or how to bring it to your region by reaching out to Kim Glenn at kglenn@edsi.com.

Customized Job Readiness Impacts Employment in the New York Region

Staten Island, NY

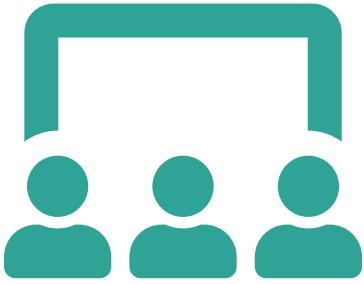
In the heart of the New York region, our EDSI team is at the forefront of transformative initiatives, proudly operating the Staten Island Workforce1 Career Center under the NYC Department of Small Business Services. Our commitment to connecting New Yorkers with employment opportunities has not only left a lasting impression but has also become a beacon of success in the community.

At the core of our efforts is the introduction of innovative job readiness workshops designed to elevate candidates' chances of success. These workshops, meticulously customized for specific employers, are offered just moments before scheduled interviews take place at the Staten Island location. We go beyond providing a meeting space for qualified candidates and employers; we ensure candidates receive personalized interview preparation and resume reviews, leveraging unique, employer-specific advice.

What sets us apart is our established relationships with employers, enabling us to offer candidates that extra edge needed to secure coveted positions. The impact of this approach has been nothing short of remarkable, with a substantial improvement and increase in the placement of job seekers in gainful employment.

In this past quarter, 22% of our overall job seeker placements can be directly attributed to individuals who attended our customized job readiness workshops. This statistic not only validates the effectiveness of our tailored approach but also highlights the substantial contribution these workshops make to the success of our job placement efforts. The data serves as a powerful testament to the tangible outcomes and positive influence our innovative practices have on connecting candidates with gainful employment opportunities in the New York region.





Blogs Published

Innovative DEI Wall Initiative at EDSI

At EDSI, our national reach and steadfast commitment to fostering inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. Our latest blog post delves into the DEI Wall initiative, showcasing how we're

creating a more inclusive and supportive work environment. Learn how this initiative is transforming our company culture and how similar strategies can benefit your organization.



Discover the full story by clicking here.



Navigating One-Stop Center Recertification Process

At EDSI, we pride ourselves on our national presence and unwavering commitment to excellence in workforce development. Our blog, **"AJC One-Stop Centers: The Recertification Process – How to Meet State and WIOA Requirements to Ensure Continued Funding"**, underscores our role as a thought leader in the industry, providing valuable insights and best practices.

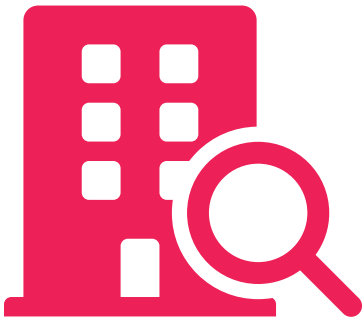
In this comprehensive guide, we delve into the intricacies of the recertification process for AJC One-Stop Centers, offering practical advice on meeting state and WIOA requirements to secure ongoing funding. This resource is designed to support our

clients, potential clients, and funders in understanding the depth and breadth of our work, showcasing our expertise and dedication to fostering successful workforce development programs.

Whether you are a current partner or exploring collaboration opportunities, our blog serves as a testament to EDSI's leadership and innovation in the field. Join us as we share our knowledge and experience to help you navigate the complexities of workforce development with confidence and achieve sustainable success.



Click here to read full blog!



Job Fairs

Empowering Careers: EDSI Berks County Spring Job Fair Attracts Thousands

Berks County, PA

This past spring, the EDSI team in Berks County, in collaboration with the Berks County Workforce Development Board and several co-located partners, successfully hosted their semi-annual spring job fair. The event drew an impressive turnout, featuring over 100 local employers and community partners, including Unemployment Compensation, Re-Entry Services, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. More than 1,700 job seekers attended, taking advantage of the diverse opportunities available.

To ensure accessibility for all, the job fair offered translation services for Spanish-speaking individuals and provided American Sign Language interpreters. This commitment to inclusivity was reflected in the event's positive feedback.

Employers and partners who participated in the event gave it an outstanding average rating of 4.85 out of 5, with 100% expressing interest in returning for future job fairs. Job seekers also responded favorably, rating the event 4.31 out of 5, particularly appreciating the convenient timing, location, and robust employer participation.

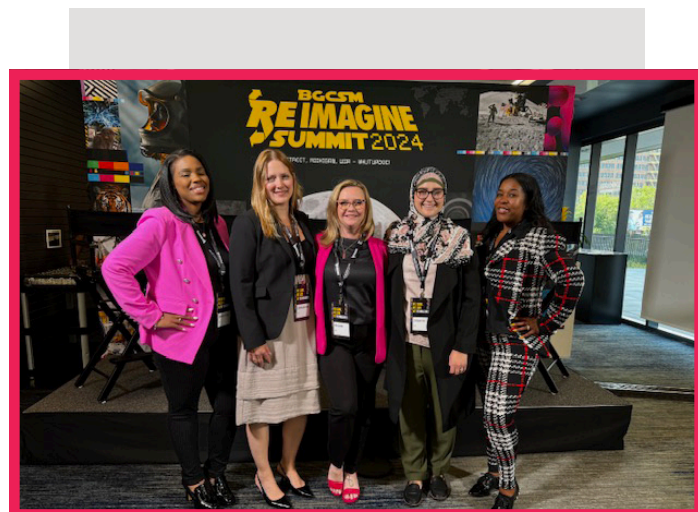
The Berks County job fair stands as a testament to EDSI's dedication to connecting jobseekers with meaningful career opportunities and fostering strong community partnerships.



Check out our
Job Fair video!

EDSI ILS Team Supports Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan at Reimagine Summit

EDSI was thrilled to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (BGCSM) to launch their groundbreaking Reimagine Summit. This dynamic 2.5-day event was nothing short of transformative, diving deep into the innovative processes and economic mobility models that are reshaping the future for youth across Southeastern Michigan.



The Reimagine Summit wasn't just another conference—it was a bold and ambitious gathering with a clear mission: to empower other Boys & Girls Clubs to envision and implement programming aimed at dramatically reducing youth poverty. Dubbed a “collective moonshot,” BGCSM set out with the audacious goal of cutting youth poverty by 50% by 2050. To rally Clubs around this vision, the Summit needed to be as inspirational as it was informative—and that's where EDSI stepped in to help make it unforgettable.

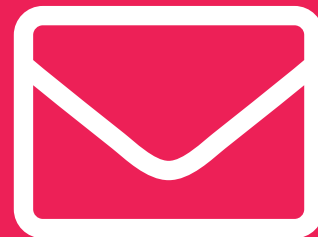
Our team was at the heart of the Summit, curating content that ensured every session was packed with purpose. We crafted Moderator Guides that provided guest speakers and panelists with session objectives, key questions, and a clear path to uncovering the essential insights behind the BGCSM Logic Model. These guides were crucial in driving the conversations that would ignite action and change.

We also developed a Participant Playbook, an interactive tool that kept attendees engaged and thinking critically throughout the event. Each session offered reflection questions designed to help participants consider how to bring the Reimagine Summit's lessons back to their own Clubs. And to cap it off, we facilitated a hands-on working session, encouraging Clubs to “reimagine” their own logic models and commit to the collective moonshot. By the Summit's end, participants had the chance to pledge their support by choosing either the “industry club” model pioneered by BGCSM or another initiative aligned with the same visionary goals.

This fall, the momentum will continue! Clubs eager to adopt the industry club model will embark on a year-long journey of technical assistance. This program, supported by EDSI, includes step-by-step resources,

monthly community of practice sessions, and personalized guidance from BGCSM program leaders. Our learning management system, Keywe, is the hub of this initiative, housing all the Summit content and offering a centralized space for attendees to connect, share resources, and ask questions.

Beyond the workshops and playbooks, EDSI was on the ground, supporting participants during club tours, facilitating table discussions, answering questions, and even taking the mic to emcee parts of the event. We were honored to be a part of this inspiring Summit and are excited to continue our collaboration with BGCSM in making a lasting impact.



Want to learn more about how EDSI can support your next event or curriculum development project?
Email: kglenn@edsi.com.

NYC Business Solutions Center Event – Meet the Lenders

Staten Island, NY

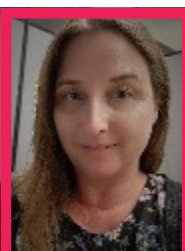
Staten Island EDSI team members from the NYC Business Solutions Center held a “Meet the Lenders” event in partnership with the SIEDC Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) program. With 20 financial organizations present and over 60 attendees, it was a great day connecting local small businesses with traditional and community

development lenders and resources. From one-on-one consultations unique to the firm’s borrower qualifications, to workshops exploring credit repair and federal loan applications, this event helped tend to the advancement of businesses of all sizes and across all industries.

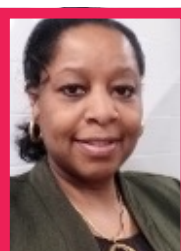




**Madeleine
D'Almeida**



**Amy
Appleyard**



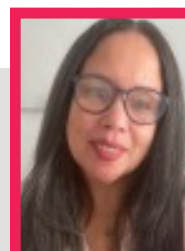
**Karen
Burden**



**Chris
Gibbs**



**Kim
Glenn**



**Evelyn
Gomez**



**Shay
Jones Vitale**



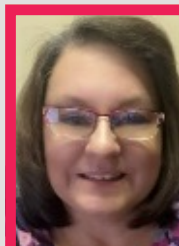
**Jennifer
Keninitz**



**Sorriyah
Ranger**



**Caroline
Remelius**



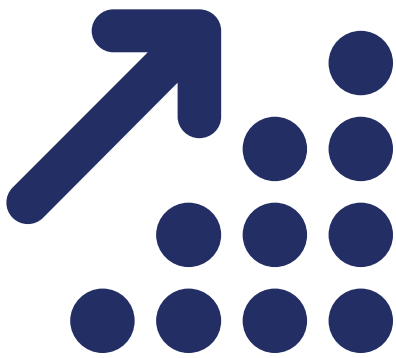
**Sharon
Seiwel**

Celebrating EDSI Team Members at the PWDA 40th Annual Conference

We are thrilled to spotlight the stellar lineup of presenters from EDSI who showcased their expertise at the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA) 40th Annual Conference, held at the Hershey Lodge in May. Our dedicated team members delivered insightful workshops, sharing their wealth of knowledge with industry peers and advancing workforce development initiatives. Their contributions underscored EDSI's commitment to excellence and innovation in our field. We applaud our team for representing EDSI with distinction and for their unwavering dedication to empowering communities and driving meaningful change.



Check out the web page built by our Marketing Team to promote our conference workshop lineup.



Program Innovations

Integrating Mental Health First Aid into EDSI's Wellness to Work Initiative



At EDSI, the well-being of both our staff and the communities we serve is paramount. Through the Wellness to Work initiative, we emphasize the importance of staff well-being, understanding that when our team members are at their healthiest, they are best positioned to deliver exceptional service to our customers. This holistic approach to wellness fosters a culture of self-awareness, growth, and empowerment within our organization.



Read more about the
Wellness to Work initiative
by clicking here.



As part of this commitment to wellness, Behavioral Health Associates (BHAs) have been delivering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training across the company. This nationally recognized, evidence-based program equips our team with the knowledge and skills necessary to support individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges.





What is Mental Health First Aid?

MHFA is a comprehensive course that teaches participants how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. The training covers a range of crucial topics, including:

- **Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges:** Recognizing early indicators can lead to timely support and intervention.
- **Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges:** Understanding these signs help in addressing issues before they escalate.
- **How to interact with a person in crisis:** Effective communication strategies are vital when someone is experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.
- **How to connect a person with help:** Providing information on resources and support systems ensures individuals receive the necessary assistance.
- **Expanded content on trauma, substance use, and self-care:** The course also delves into the impacts of trauma, ways to support those with substance use challenges, and the importance of self-care for caregivers.

Why Mental Health First Aid?

When it comes to mental health, the gap in our response compared to physical health emergencies is striking. According to [mentalhealthfirstaid.org](https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/): “Most of us would know how to help if we saw someone having a heart attack—we’d start CPR, or at the very least, call 911. But too few of us would know how to respond if we saw someone having a panic attack or if we were concerned that a friend or coworker might be showing signs of alcohol use disorder.”¹

Effective communication is key to supporting mental health, and as emphasized by experts: “When more people are equipped with the tools to start a dialogue, more people can get

the help they need. Mental Health First Aiders are a vital link, connecting those experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge with appropriate support.”²

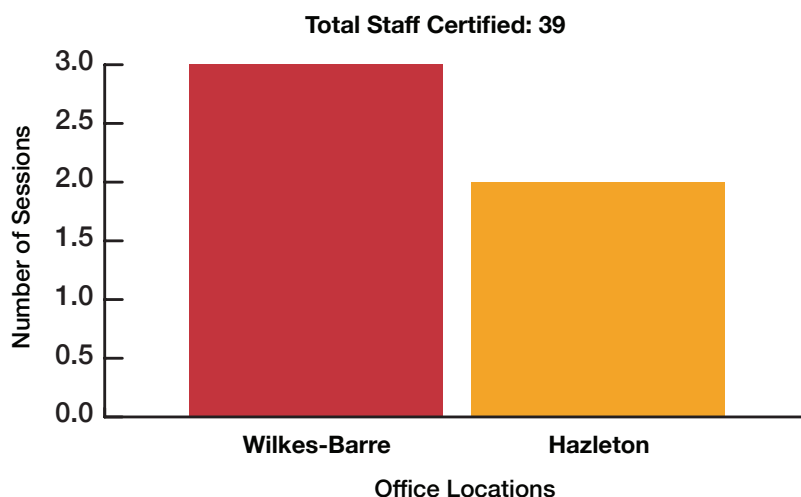
This vital link not only connects individuals to the support they need but also enhances the overall well-being of those we serve. By fostering open communication and understanding, we can better address the challenges our customers face, paving the way for their success. As Shay Jones Vitale, Behavioral Health Coordinator, highlights: “Supporting an individual’s overall wellness is an important aspect of workforce readiness. When we aim to understand our customers’ needs and how to effectively address their challenges, we are better equipped to support their success.”

Ongoing Progress

The MHFA training began in Luzerne County, facilitating five sessions in two offices (Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton). A total of 39 staff members received their 3-year Mental Health First Aid Certification. These sessions have laid a strong foundation for staff to effectively support each other and clients.



Mental Health First Aid Training in Luzerne County



Future Plans

Building on the success of the current training, EDSI plans to extend MHFA training to the Schuylkill County (Pottsville) office in the fall. Additionally, EDSI's Learning and Development specialists are in the process of becoming certified MHFA Instructors. This will enable them to lead future training sessions, ensuring that all staff members have access to this essential education.



Participant Testimonials

Staff members who completed the Mental Health First Aid training shared their experiences and the impact it has had on their roles at EDSI:



I found this course to be a great refresher, as well as an informative session for how to approach and respond to sensitive topics and best assist individuals while maintaining safety for all. I learned how to approach individuals who are experiencing concerns and difficulties with their mental health, the role that a Mental Health First Aider has- what they should 'do' and 'not do', and to remember that assessment is a constant throughout the process."

– Pauline Rinehimer, Business Services Representative
Wilkes Barre, PA



The Mental Health First Aid training exposed me to issues I was not aware of, which has been invaluable in my role managing staff, including those from EDSI. I've learned to use more appropriate terms and have become more sensitive to staff members experiencing mental health challenges. This training has better equipped me to support my team effectively."

– Christine Jensen, PA One-Stop Administrator
Luzerne County, PA

Through MHFA training, EDSI is fostering an environment of understanding and compassion, empowering staff to make a positive difference in the lives of those served. As this program continues to expand, all staff members are encouraged to take part and support their colleagues and clients in meaningful ways. By embedding these initiatives within the company culture, EDSI reaffirms its commitment to mental health and well-being, ensuring a supportive and informed workplace for all.



Veteran Support at EDSI: Insights from Unsung Heroes Tammy Souder and Autumn Allen

At EDSI, the commitment to supporting our nation's heroes is more than just a mission; it's a passion shared by our dedicated team members Tammy Souder and Autumn Allen. These two professionals have taken on the vital role of assisting Veterans as they transition from military service to civilian careers. With a deep understanding of the unique challenges that Veterans face, Tammy and Autumn provide tailored support that goes beyond the standard job placement services.

They focus on addressing the individual needs of each Veteran, whether it's navigating union placements, ensuring employment verification across states, or offering unwavering moral support during this pivotal life change. Their work is a testament to EDSI's broader commitment to championing the well-

being and success of those who have served our country.

Looking ahead, EDSI would love to support regions in expanding this type of specialized Veterans programming, ensuring that more Veterans across the country can access the support they deserve. By scaling this model, we would aim to make a nationwide impact, helping even more Veterans successfully transition into meaningful civilian careers.

In the full blog post, Veteran Support at EDSI: Insights from Unsung Heroes, you'll find an in-depth look at the impact Tammy and Autumn are making in the lives of Veterans at Ft. Campbell, KY. From their unique approaches to the heartfelt dedication they bring to their work, their stories are truly inspiring.



Read the full story by
clicking here!



Special Projects

Keeping Kids Engaged Through Winter: The Eddystone Youth Program

Delaware County, PA

The Eddystone Youth Program, created by Katy McGinley, the Assistant Principal at Eddystone High School, has become a vital community initiative in Ridley, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Eddystone and attending Eddystone Elementary School, Katy recognized the limited options for students during the winter. This inspired her to envision a structured program to keep kids engaged and help them develop essential life skills.

Katy explains: “I noted a lack of activities, particularly for those students in middle and early high school that were available to me when I was their age and proved to be an integral part of my growth and development, which is why I teamed with Roe Falcone and EDSI to bring programming to this demographic. I am thrilled at the number of students who took advantage of the opportunity to engage in the activities provided and could definitely see the community involvement that makes Eddystone so unique, from Sciarrino’s generous weekly donations of food and drinks to the Eddystone Police Department’s support and engagement.”

From Humble Beginnings to Serving Dozens

Initially designed to cater to 15 participants, the program quickly gained popularity, attracting around 50 youths in its first iteration. Funded by the Community Foundation and run in partnership with the Workforce Development Board, the program has consistently served around 30 kids per cohort over the past three years.

A Blend of Fun and Learning

The program’s primary aim is to provide opportunities for kids to develop essential life skills through a blend of play, competition, and fun activities. Local businesses have played a crucial role in its success, with contributions of food and beverages from establishments like Sciarrino’s pizza shop. The police department has also contributed basketballs and engaged in pickup games with the kids.

Adaptability in the Face of Challenges

The most recent cohort of the program ran from January 23 to April 9, 2024, and serviced a total of 54 students. Despite encountering initial challenges, the program staff demonstrated remarkable adaptability. They promptly addressed emerging needs by bolstering staff numbers and refining the program’s structure.

Lessons Tailored to Interests

Lessons on communication, time management, and interviews were all tailored to resonate with the students' preferences. Recognizing their enjoyment for competition, activities were modified to incorporate elements of rivalry. For instance, the time management lesson took the form of a scavenger hunt, wherein two groups competed to find items within a specified time frame.

A Nightly Routine

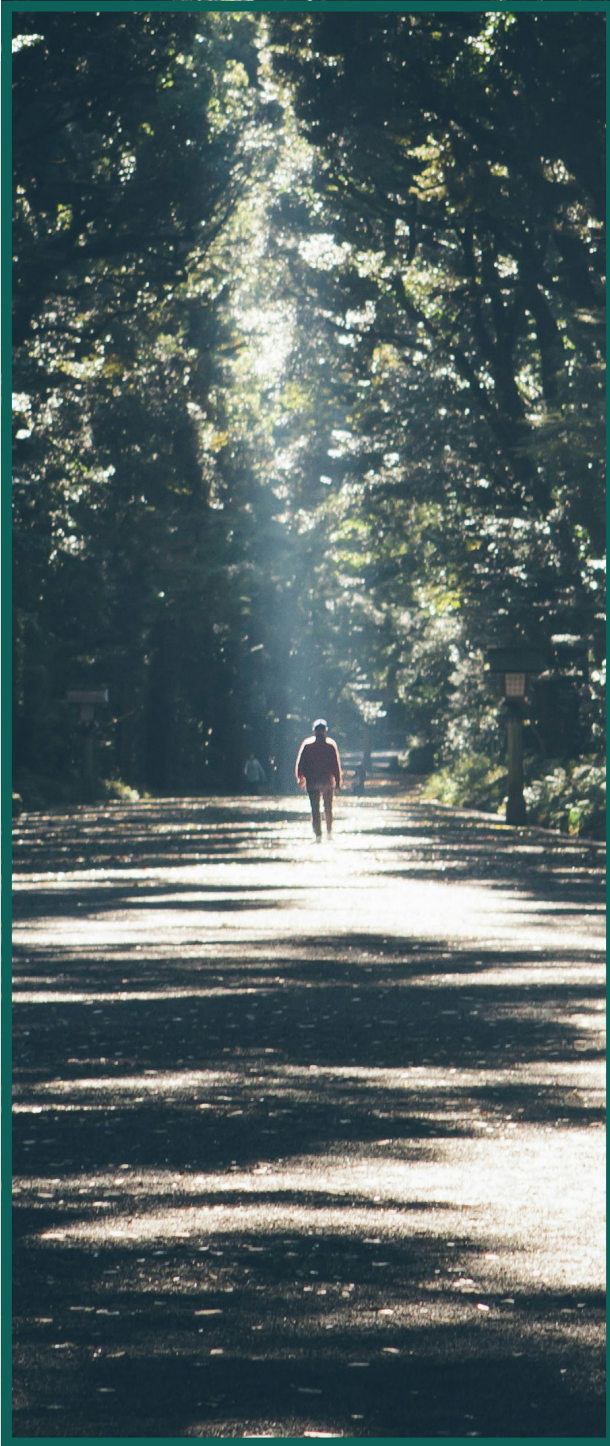
Each evening commenced with journal prompts in the school cafeteria, seamlessly segueing into engaging lessons and activities. A nutritious dinner replenished the students midway through the program, energizing them for the subsequent physical activities. Emphasizing responsibility and respect, staff and students collaborated in maintaining cleanliness and orderliness in the facilities.

Positive Outcomes and Lasting Impact

Enrollment peaked at 54 students, with an average nightly attendance of 25 following the initial week. Notably, over 16 students participated for ten or more nights, evidencing sustained engagement. The program fostered positive behavioral changes by prioritizing student input and resolving conflicts through constructive dialogue. Beyond structured activities, students formed new connections and friendships, enriched by their shared experiences throughout the program.



EDSI's Commitment to Reentry Success: A Powerful Partnership with Bucks County One-Stop and Local Organizations



Across the country, more than 95 percent of the thousands of people incarcerated in county jails and state prisons will eventually return home after serving their sentences. In Pennsylvania alone, state prisons release about 19,000 individuals annually. Meanwhile, Pennsylvania employers continue to struggle to fill open job positions.

Reentering society can be a challenging process, but it becomes more manageable when individuals are aware of the local services and resources available to assist them. Securing gainful employment is a crucial step in building a strong foundation for reentry and reducing recidivism. While the journey can be complex, many have successfully overcome these challenges, finding work, supporting themselves and their families, and thriving in their communities.

EDSI's One-Stop in Bucks County, in collaboration with the Bucks County Re-Entry Coalition and the Bucks County Adult Probation Department, is at the forefront of promoting career opportunities for returning citizens. This often-overlooked talent pool could significantly benefit Bucks County businesses by filling the gap in open jobs and helping meet production demands.

On April 30, 2024, our partnership hosted a Multi-Industry Job and Resource Fair at our Lower Bucks County location in Trevoze, PA. The event featured over twenty Second Chance Employers and Community Resource Organizations from the Bucks County area. Widely publicized, the fair offered both part-time and full-time job opportunities and attracted over 100 job seekers from the surrounding area. Employers from various industries, including Education, Manufacturing, Agriculture & Food Production, Healthcare, and Logistics & Transportation, participated. Job seekers had the chance to learn about open positions such as Maintenance Mechanic, Material Handler, Ink Jet Operator, Electrician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Package Handler, and Sales Representative.

Building on the success of this event, our partnership organized another Multi-Industry Job Fair on May 16, 2024, at the Trolley Barn Public Market in Quakertown, PA. This event featured six Upper Bucks County Area Second Chance Employers and drew close to eighty job seekers. The intimate setting provided an ideal atmosphere for promoting job opportunities in roles such as Substitute Teacher, Machine Operator, Maintenance Mechanic, Personal Care Aide, Drywall Finisher, Journeyman Carpenter, Direct Support Professional, Material Handler, Ink Jet Operator, and Electrician.

The collaboration between the Bucks County One-Stop, the Bucks County Re-Entry Coalition, and the Bucks County Adult Probation Department plays a vital role in providing employment, guidance, support, and opportunities to formerly incarcerated individuals as they reenter their communities. Employment fosters increased earnings, self-esteem, a positive sense of identity, and ultimately a more stable lifestyle for reentrants. For employers, hiring formerly incarcerated individuals demonstrates a commitment to nondiscriminatory practices, potentially qualifies them for tax credits and free bonding services, opens up opportunities for specialized grants, expands applicant pools, and can help reduce training costs.

Communities also benefit when returning citizens secure meaningful employment. This leads to reduced crime and poverty rates, increased tax revenue from earned income, and stronger families. The ongoing collaboration between the One-Stop in Bucks County, the Bucks County Re-Entry Coalition, and the Bucks County Adult Probation Department is crucial in reducing recidivism and crime in Bucks County. Through this partnership, everyone wins.





Success Story

Jalen Simmons: A Journey of Growth & Opportunity

Jalen's success story is a testament to the transformative power of EDSI's Work Experience Program. His journey, marked by dedication and resilience, culminated in a full-time employment opportunity that promises a bright future in the construction industry.

Academic Milestones: Laying the Foundation

In February, Jalen enrolled in EDSI's program with a clear goal: to complete his academic requirements and pave the way for a career in construction. By mid-March, he was already halfway through his academic objectives, demonstrating a strong commitment to his personal and professional growth. His determination paid off when Jalen proudly earned his GED and Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.

Stepping into the Workforce: Gaining Real-World Experience

Recognizing Jalen's potential and his clear career pathway in construction, EDSI's Career Services Coordinator, Tiara Cheatham, facilitated a pivotal opportunity for him. Tiara connected with Will Bowie, President and CEO of Empower Construction to arrange an interview for Jalen. Impressed by Jalen's enthusiasm and readiness, Will offered him a Work Experience position.

Jalen began his work experience with Empower Construction, committing to 20 hours a week. This role was more than just a job; it was a crucial step in Jalen's career development, allowing him to apply his academic knowledge in a real-world setting and gain valuable industry experience.





Achieving Employment: The Culmination of Hard Work

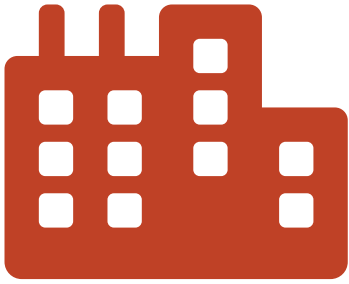
Jalen's performance during his 8-week Work Experience was exceptional. He demonstrated not only the skills he had learned but also a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn and grow. These qualities did not go unnoticed by Empower Construction. At the end of the program, Jalen was offered a full-time position with the company, solidifying his place in the construction industry, and validating the hard work he had put into his journey.

A Bright Future Ahead

Jalen's story is a shining example of what can be achieved through EDSI's Work Experience Program. His journey from academic achievement to securing full-time employment is an inspiration to many. With the support of dedicated workforce professionals and opportunities provided by companies like Empower Construction, participants like Jalen can turn their aspirations into reality.

Jalen's success underscores the impact of comprehensive support and structured pathways in transforming lives. We at EDSI are proud to have been a part of his journey and look forward to helping many more individuals achieve their goals.





New Business



Contracts Won Between April 2024 and August 2024

Michigan

- Macomb/St. Clair
PATH

Missouri

- Southeast Missouri
One-Stop, WIOA ADW/
Youth, Skill-Up, & Jobs
League



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