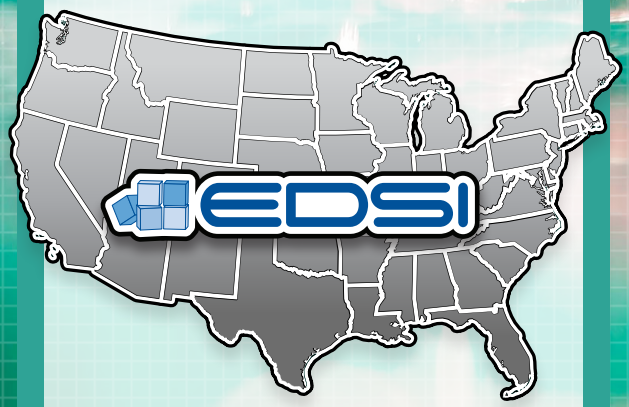
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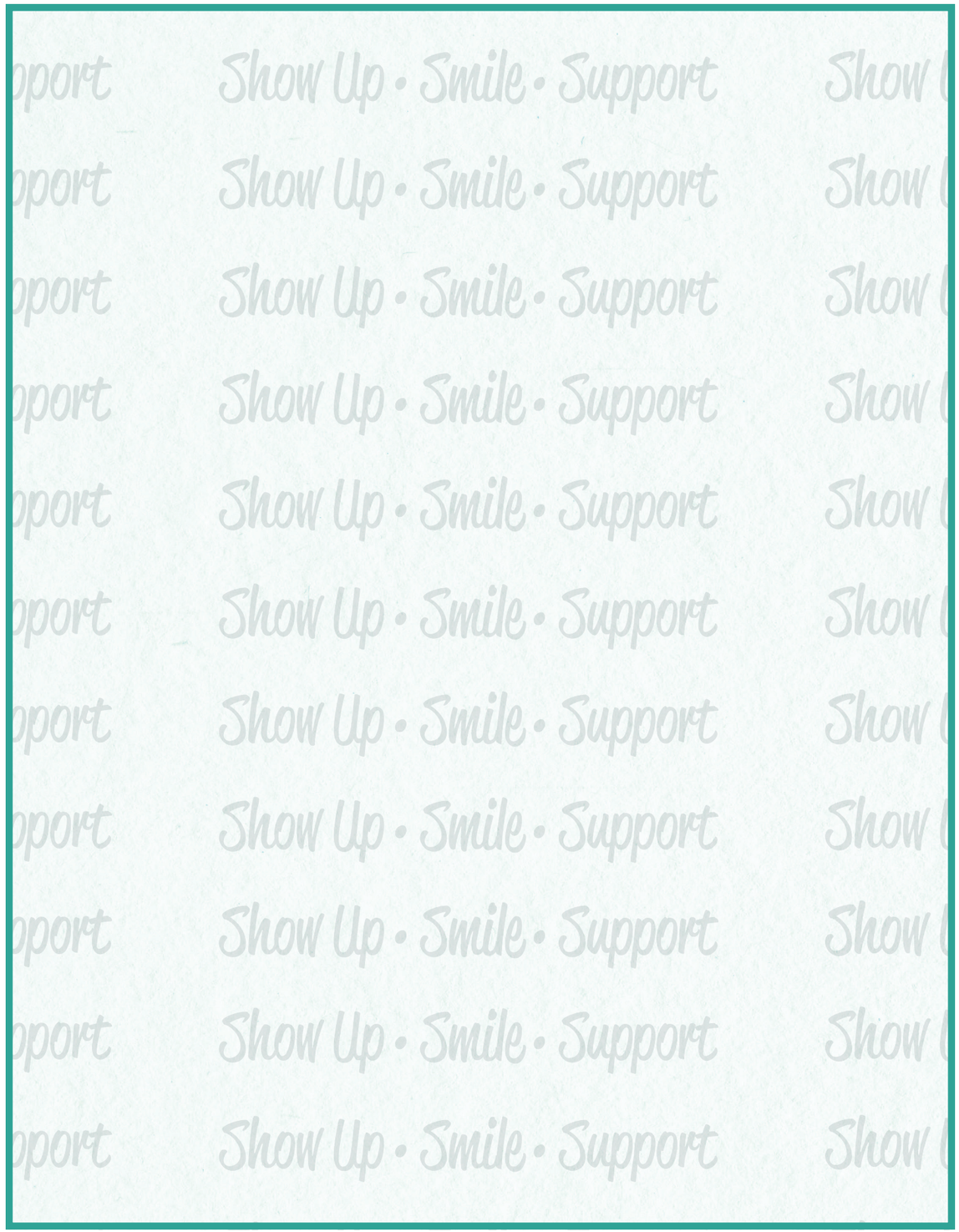
In This Issue:

- Awards & Accolades
- Best Practices
- Program Innovations
- Conferences & Job Fairs
- In The Community
- Success Stories
- New Business

July 2025 | Volume 10



EDSI.com



Introducing This Month's Issue





Click to hear from our Director of Customer Experience Kevin Watson as he introduces the July 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

Celebrating Excellence: EDSI's Award-Winning Year

2025 has been a remarkable year of recognition for EDSI, with multiple prestigious awards affirming what our team has always known – we're part of something truly special.



Philadelphia Top Workplaces

Reflecting the exceptional culture we've built together.



Newsweek's America's Greatest Midsize Workplaces

Showcasing our commitment to creating an outstanding employee experience on a national scale.



Crain's Private 200

Highlighting our continued growth and business excellence.



Kevin Schnieders named Best and Brightest CEOs in the Nation

Recognizing the servant leadership that guides our organization.

These accolades aren't just awards on the wall – they're a testament to our mission-driven, values-centered approach and the incredible dedication of every team member. When you combine passionate people with a meaningful mission, incredible things happen, and these honors reflect what makes EDSI the unique, values-centered organization it is today.

You can learn more about our recent accolades by clicking here to visit the awards page of our website!





Click here to view the entire winner's list.

Celebrating Leadership and Impact: Lauren Giordanella Named to Staten Island's 20 Under 40

EDSI is proud to recognize Lauren Giordanella, Director of the Staten Island NYC Business Solutions Center, for being named a 2025 Staten Island 20 Under 40 award recipient. This honor reflects Lauren's outstanding leadership, service, and lasting contributions to Staten Island's vibrant small business community.

In her role, Lauren leads the Staten Island NYC Business Solutions Center, operated in partnership with the NYC Department of Small Business Services. Under her direction, the Center delivers a robust suite of services designed to help local entrepreneurs launch, manage, and expand their businesses. Her strategic guidance and deep commitment to community and economic development continue to create meaningful impact across the borough.

We're thrilled to celebrate this achievement alongside the many partners and stakeholders who benefit from Lauren's work.

Rahdiah Barnes Appointed to NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem Community Advisory Board



EDSI is proud to celebrate the appointment of Rahdiah Barnes, Community Partner Manager at the Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Career Center, to the NYC Health + Hospitals/ Harlem Community Advisory Board. In this distinguished role, Rahdiah will help guide community health initiatives and champion equitable, accessible care for Harlem residents.

Rahdiah's collaborative spirit and community-centered leadership have been a driving force at our Manhattan Center. She has played a vital role in forging strong partnerships with local organizations and government agencies, helping to expand access to workforce readiness programs and employment opportunities for Upper Manhattan jobseekers.

This appointment is a testament to Rahdiah's commitment to public service and her deep connection to the Harlem community. We look forward to the meaningful impact she will continue to make in this new capacity.

Best Practices



Leaders in Action: A Closer Look at EDSI's Leadership Academy

Across EDSI, leadership is more than a role—it's a mindset and a daily practice. That's why our redesigned **Leadership Academy** is gaining momentum and making an impact across the company.

With three distinct tiers—**Leaders at All Levels, Leadership Essentials**, and **Leaders Circle**—the program meets team members where they are and helps them grow through real-world, role-specific leadership content. Sessions include hands-on learning, thoughtful discussion, and collaborative problem-solving—all grounded in the principles of servant leadership.

Whether participants are learning to lead through influence, sharpen their management skills, or make strategic decisions across regions, they're taking bold steps to lead with heart and purpose.

NYC SBS Small Business Expo

New York, New York

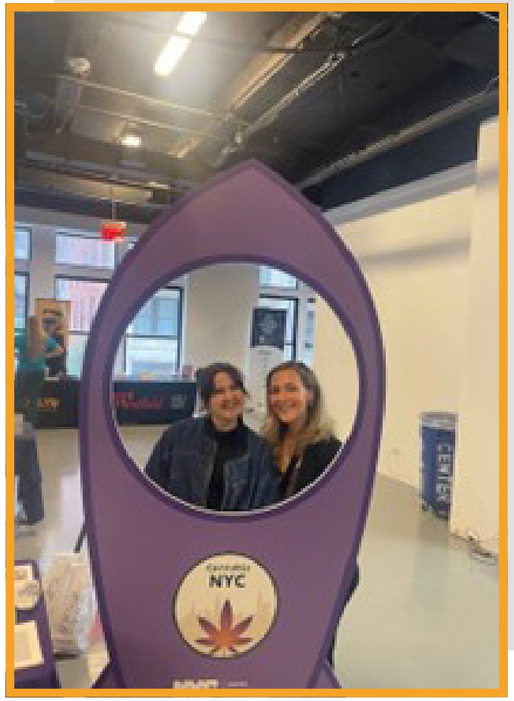
We're proud to celebrate and support the incredible entrepreneurs who make up the heart of our communities.

May was Small Business Month, and for the Staten Island NYC Business Solutions team, that meant a calendar full of community-focused events, outreach, and celebrations of entrepreneurship. One of the highlights took place on Thursday, May 29, when Director Lauren Giordanella and Cannabis Account Manager, Jillian Baldassarre attended the NYC Department of Small Business Services' Small Business Month Expo.

The Staten Island team showed up strong—connecting with entrepreneurs, sharing valuable resources, and continuing their mission of supporting small business success across the borough and beyond. Jillian represented Cannabis NYC, spending the day engaging with business owners and community partners interested in entering or expanding within the cannabis industry.

Lauren provided one-on-one financial consultations to business owners seeking capital to start or grow their ventures. She also had the privilege of presenting a workshop to over 200 attendees on financial assistance programs, helping aspiring and existing entrepreneurs better understand their options for accessing funding.

The day was filled with energy, meaningful connections, and a shared commitment to economic growth and opportunity. Events like these highlight the importance of collaboration and the critical role NYC Business Solutions plays in driving small business success.













Reigniting Purpose: EDSI's North Carolina Teams Unite for Learning, Connection, and Growth

North Carolina

At EDSI, staying mission-driven means continually growing—both individually and as a team. That spirit was front and center at our annual Better Together event in North Carolina, which was a dynamic, in-person training experience.

Team members from Wilmington, Wake County, and Kerr-Tar gathered to reconnect with their "Why" and explore strategies to better serve our customers. With an emphasis on meaningful connection and professional development, the training provided space for teams to engage, reflect, and share new ideas.

Through interactive sessions, staff gained fresh perspectives and innovative tools to support EDSI's Core Values and mission. The collaborative energy sparked renewed motivation to deliver services with purpose and excellence.

This inspiring event reminded everyone that we're not just coworkers—we're a community committed to changing lives and strengthening the workforce, together.

Kevin Schnieders Featured on Fine is a Four-Letter Word Podcast

We're excited to share that Kevin was recently featured on Fine is a Four-Letter Word, a podcast hosted by Lori Saitz that spotlights stories of resilience, growth, and authenticity.

In this candid conversation, Kevin opens up about his personal and professional journey—from growing up in a passionate, hardworking family to leading a national workforce development company grounded in the values of Show Up, Smile, and Support. He shares how his path took unexpected turns, how he's learned to practice self-compassion, and why connection and culture matter now more than ever.

Listeners will also get a deeper understanding of what it means for EDSI to be a certified B Corp, why Kevin doesn't have a traditional desk or office, and how small acts of leadership—like writing personal notes—build big trust.

Whether you're new to EDSI or have been part of the family for years, Kevin's interview is a powerful reminder of how our core values shape who we are and how we lead.





Click here to listen to the full episode

Program Innovations





Community Partner Monthly Meeting Collaboration

New York, NY

In an exciting first-time collaboration, two community centers came together for a combined partner meeting that showcased innovative programs aimed at improving local engagement and support. The event, hosted by Chase Bank, in their beautiful community space, marked a significant milestone in the partnership between the centers and their community allies. The meeting allowed each center, Upper Manhattan and Washington Heights, to present its unique initiatives, highlighting new approaches to addressing local challenges, and barriers to employment, and fostering inclusivity. By joining forces, the centers were able to amplify their impact and offer a more comprehensive view of the WorkForce1 services available to the community.

Participants gathered to exchange ideas, best practices, and opportunities for collaboration. This new meeting format resulted in higher levels of engagement, as attendees were energized by the diverse program offerings, and attendance for subsequent meetings has significantly increased. The meeting also led to an increase in candidate referrals, demonstrating the effectiveness of shared information and streamlined communication. The collaboration sparked the creation of a new partnership with Chase Bank, who expressed enthusiasm for supporting community-driven initiatives.

This combined meeting not only strengthened existing partnerships, but also laid the foundation for future community-driven projects. It was clear that this collaboration had far-reaching benefits, creating a model for how centers can work together to enhance the well-being of the communities they serve. The success of this meeting has set the stage for more joint efforts, fostering a great spirit of collaboration.





Lancaster’s Reentry Support Group: A Pathway to Purpose and Possibility

Lancaster, PA

In January 2025, EDSI’s Lancaster office launched an in-person Reentry Support Group (RSG) to help justice-impacted individuals navigate the challenges of reintegration and achieve long-term success. Originally developed to support successful completion of probation or parole, the group has since evolved into something much more impactful.

Today, RSG is a comprehensive support network that champions employment

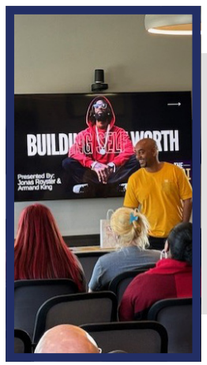
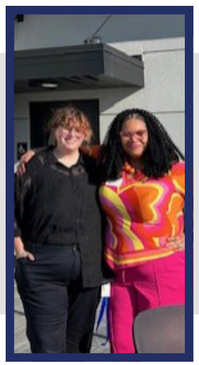
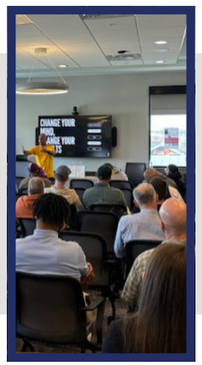
and training opportunities, holistic well-being, community advocacy, and barrier remediation. In addition to traditional career center services, participants benefit from weekly sessions focused on problem-solving, decision-making, communication, conflict resolution, and connecting with local resources.

A major milestone for RSG came in March 2025, when the authors of The Cheat Code traveled from Menifee, CA to Lancaster to speak with a group of 50 justice-impacted individuals. Attendees received a copy of the book and had the opportunity to enjoy lunch, get their books signed, and connect with the authors. More importantly, they left with a renewed sense of self-worth and actionable tools for personal growth.

In April, the group hosted a Second Chance Clinic featuring Record Eraser/ PA Pardon Services. Participants learned how to pursue expungement, pardons, and relief under the Clean Slate Law. Each attendee received a copy of their criminal docket and personalized guidance on what could be removed from their records.

The success of RSG has had ripple effects beyond individual lives—it's strengthening the Lancaster community. In July, the group expanded to a hybrid model, allowing individuals currently housed in Lancaster County Prison to join virtually. The initiative continues to grow through collaboration with the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition, Synergy, Probation & Parole, local halfway houses, addiction recovery centers, and other community organizations.

Together, these efforts are creating a stronger support system—and a brighter path forward—for justice-impacted individuals across Lancaster County.



The Power of Self-Love

Psychoeducational Support Group for EARN Participants
Berks County, PA

The Power of Self-Love is a psychoeducational support group facilitated by Behavioral Health Advocate Arelis Batista for participants in the EARN Program in Berks County, PA. It is designed to support individuals on their journey toward greater emotional well-being, self-awareness, and personal growth.

Through interactive sessions, participants gain practical tools to manage stress, regulate emotions, and build motivation. Guided discussions and reflective activities help them develop skills essential for navigating challenges related to job stability, mental health, and major life transitions. These experiences foster both personal and professional development in a supportive and structured environment.

Participants report increased self-awareness, reduced anxiety, improved emotional regulation, and a stronger sense of confidence. The group has become a safe and valuable space for learning, connection, and transformation.

Outcomes are monitored through the Behavioral Health Advocate Quarterly Review, and recent PY24/25 data shows a 97% satisfaction rating. This reflects the group's strong impact on participants' emotional wellness and highlights its continued value in helping individuals thrive within the Berks EARN Program.

A Closer Look at the Power of Self-Love

Purpose

The Power of Self-Love is a supportive space for EARN participants to:

- **Develop self-awareness**
- **Build emotional resilience**
- **Strengthen personal motivation**

What to Expect

Through guided discussions and hands-on activities, participants gain:

- **Tools to reduce stress and anxiety**
- **Techniques for emotional regulation**
- **Exercises to boost self-compassion and confidence**

Impact

Participants report:

- **Greater self-awareness**
- **Lower stress and anxiety**
- **Improved emotional control**
- **Stronger confidence and relationships**

Introducing KeyweLearn: EDSI's New Learning Platform for Adult Education and Workforce Professionals

At EDSI, we believe in **empowering professionals with high-quality**, **accessible learning experiences** that help them grow and lead with impact. That's why we're proud to introduce **KeyweLearn** – our new public-facing professional development platform!

What is KeyweLearn?

KeyweLearn is your gateway to expert-led training programs, designed to help professionals in **adult education** and **workforce development** strengthen their skills and stay ahead of the curve.

We created KeyweLearn to:

- **Expand access to impactful training across the country**
- **Offer flexible learning options like microlearning, self-paced courses, and virtual workshops**
- **Support program success by focusing on real-world application and outcomes**
- **Offer IACET accredited courses to support continuing education credit attainment**

Now Live: Adult Education Professional Development Catalog

Our first **KeyweLearn catalog** is now available and features professional development specifically for **adult education professionals**. Whether you're looking to improve instruction, boost learner engagement, or enhance leadership, our catalog has courses that support your success.

Featured Topics:

- **Scaffolding instruction**
- **Social Emotional Learning**
- **Equity and well-being in adult education**
- **AI prompts for educators**
- **Career Navigator Series**
- **...and more!**

Click here to explore the catalog.

IACET The Standard for Lifelong Learning ACCREDITED

Click here to watch the launch video.



Coming This Fall: Workforce Development Training Catalog

We're excited to share that a **brand-new catalog for workforce development professionals** will launch this fall! This next wave of offerings will provide customized learning paths for front-line staff, career coaches, managers, and leaders across the workforce system.

Expect courses on:

- **Career coaching and goal setting**
- **Participant journey mapping**
- **Case noting**
- **Motivational communication**
- **DEI strategies in workforce development**
- **…and more based on what YOU need.**

We Want to Hear from You!

KeyweLearn is designed to evolve alongside the field—and we want your input! **What professional development topics would help you, your team, or your organization thrive?**

Send us your ideas, feedback, and questions at: **info@keywelearn.com**

Why KeyweLearn?

KeyweLearn reflects EDSI's commitment to being a **learning organization** that supports growth, innovation, and impact—nationally and locally. KeyweLearn is **"The Key to the Way We Learn!"**

Click here to view our digital flyer.

Blogs Published

Introducing KeyweLearn: Purpose-Driven PD for Adult Educators and Workforce Pros



Kim Glenn
EDSI Managing Director of Innovative Learning Solutions

In this behind-the-scenes Q&A, Kim Glenn, EDSI's Managing Director of Innovative Learning Solutions, shares the story and strategy behind KeyweLearn—a public-facing professional development catalog designed to bring high-quality, accessible learning to those who need it most. From trauma-informed teaching to microlearning, discover how this new platform is transforming how we support the people who support others.

Click to read the full blog!

How can communities build stronger, more resilient economies?

It starts with collaboration. In this insightful blog, EDSI's Matt Giombetti explores how workforce and economic development agencies can move from parallel efforts to powerful partnerships—creating inclusive growth and opportunity for all.

Click to read the full blog!



Matt Giombetti
EDSI Business
Services Representative



Conferences & Job Fairs

Conference Season Highlights: EDSI in Action Across the Nation

This spring, EDSI team members crisscrossed the country to attend, present at, and lead key workforce and education conferences—demonstrating our deep commitment to thought leadership, collaboration, and innovation in the field.













We kicked off the season with a powerful showing at the **PWDA Conference in Hershey, PA**, where nearly 90 EDSI team members from a wide range of programs and regions came together.

















Our collective presence was a true testament to the strength and diversity of our teams—and the passion we share for workforce development.

In Missouri, EDSI was well represented at the **MAWD Conference**, with four teammates presenting on impactful topics, ranging from youth services to operational excellence. Special recognition goes to Samantha Terry, our Regional Director of Operations, who played a key role in planning the event as MAWD President.

At the **NAWDP Conference in Virginia Beach**, our teams – including those from Connecticut—joined workforce professionals from across the country for several days of learning and networking. We were proud to attend alongside our funders and are already planning for a larger presence next year.

The **MAETC Conference in Mt. Pleasant, MI** was another standout moment. Our Innovative Learning Solutions (ILS) team, led by Kim Glenn, was instrumental in the event's success—from managing logistics and organizing breakout sessions to leading workshops and discussions. It was a true team effort that left a lasting impression.

Wrapping up the season, our **North Carolina Pre-ETS team** returned to the **SEPSEA Conference in Asheville**, where they presented on the powerful intersection of Pre-ETS and IPSE programs. Their session also spotlighted EDSI's exciting new collaboration with NC State's Elevate Program, aimed at improving outcomes for young adults with disabilities.

Whether we were presenting, hosting, organizing, or learning—our teams made a meaningful impact everywhere we went. Scroll through the photos to enjoy highlights from these dynamic events!

Supporting Crozer Health Workers Through Partnership and Purpose

Delaware County, PA

When Crozer Health announced its closure mere weeks ago, thousands of employees across Delaware County were suddenly faced with an uncertain future. In a powerful display of partnership and responsiveness, EDSI, the Delaware County One-Stop, and the Delaware County Workforce Development Board (WDB) banded together to deliver critical support to those affected.



On May 13, a large-scale Job and Resource Fair was held at Subaru Park in Chester, PA. The event brought together more than 200 employers and 25 community organizations, all committed to helping jobseekers take the next step in their careers. EDSI team members were onsite to assist with resume reviews, job matching, and career coaching. The turnout was impressive, and the energy in the room reflected a shared sense of hope, determination, and possibility.

Click here to view this great video captured by the Delco Team.

Special thanks go out to our Regional Director of Operations, Laura Zales, for her leadership in coordinating efforts on behalf of EDSI, and to Kate McGeever, Executive Director of the Delaware County WDB, for her continued leadership, collaboration, and support. Their guidance and teamwork were instrumental in making this event a success.

The work doesn't stop there—the career center has launched Crozer Health Transition Center to continue to provide daily in-person and virtual services to support individuals as they navigate unemployment, healthcare, and career transitions.



SUBARU PARK

Hundreds of ex-Crozer Health employees attend job fair

There was an outpouring of appreciation for their longevity & determination

By Kathleen K. Carey
kcarey@delcotimes.com

The parking lots around Subaru Park were packed Wednesday as there was a concourse was buzzing with activity as hundreds of former employees of the final staff of Crozer Health campuses to help them move on to the next chapter of their careers.

"Our community cares about you and we want you back to work," Kate McGovern, executive director of the Delaware County Workforce Board said. "I hope that's it's like a big hug for you and a welcome to your next workforce. ... It's a step forward. These folks are really in demand. They have great skills. They're ready to work."

According to the state Department of Labor and Industry, there are 6,000 people, 330 employers and 30 community organizations that have come to the Start Here Crozer Rapid Response Employment and Resource Fair.

"The folks who worked at Crozer and Taylor are the backbone of Pennsylvania Labor and Industry Secretary Nancy Walker said. "We're here to help folks who have been at bedside, people that have kept the lights on and everything is open. We owe it to them to make sure that they have the opportunity to be here and that we open doors of opportunity to them."

Subaru Park was the site of the well-attended Crozer Rapid Response Employment and Resource Fair.

Tom DiNatale and his wife, Sue, at the job fair at Subaru Park. He retired after 39 years at Crozer and worked there 39 years.

Former Crozer dialysis employees, from left, Michelle Hayes, Tiffany Jones and Heather Towns, gave a thumbs up to the Crozer Rapid Response Employment and Resource Fair.

In the midst of bankruptcy, Prospect Medical Holdings closed Taylor and Crozer in 2024, along with closing Crozer-Chester Medical Center on May 3.

That action resulted in the layoffs of approximately 2,000 workers.

In response, the Delaware County Workforce Board, headed by Kate McGovern, Delaware County, the state Department of Labor and Industry and numerous community partners held Tuesday's job fair to help the recently laid-off impacted employees.

"The good news is regardless of what happened in ... Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester counties, there have to do a call, email or go to your local CareerLink and you're going to have those opportunities available," Walker said.

'Another door opens'

The Crozer Transition Center at the Chester Police Station at 10 E. Seventh St. will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to provide career counseling, resume writing, employment guidance, job search assistance and health insurance enrollment.

Walk-ins are welcome or appointments can be made by emailing PaCrozerTransition@Centerforindependence.com. The phone number is 610-447-0500.

"That's for all Crozer employees and it'll be going as long as they need it," Delaware County Chair Dr. Monica Taylor said.

Taylor said she added, "The community really showed up to support our Crozer employees and really hosting this! they can keep figuring out where their path is. I'm hoping that they do. I feel like there's all the supports, there's all the employers and really just trying to figure out what they need."

McGovern had words to share with all of the impacted Crozer Health employees.

Pennsylvania Labor and Industry Secretary Nancy Walker, left, and Delaware County Chair Dr. Monica Taylor at the Crozer Rapid Response Employment and Resource Fair.

Crozer employees and really hosting this! they can keep figuring out where their path is. I'm hoping that they do. I feel like there's all the supports, there's all the employers and really just trying to figure out what they need."

McGovern had words to share with all of the impacted Crozer Health employees.

"In the first week, we saw about 75 people come in," she said. "And that has actually been a bit busier. Yesterday, when I was here, I think we saw about close to 90 some people just yesterday."

Laura Zahn, left, regional director for EDSI, with Kate McGovern, executive director of the Delaware County Workforce Board.

This is a shining example of EDSI's mission in action—helping people and companies in transition—and a reminder of the meaningful impact we make when we work together in service to our communities.

Click here to view the extensive news coverage from this impactful initiative.









EDSI's Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Career Center Hosts NYC Hospitality Alliance Hiring Hall

Upper Manhattan, NY





On June 5, 2025 the **Citywide Workforce Opportunity Team** at the **NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**, the **NYC Hospitality Alliance**, and **EDSI** launched the first in a series of hospitality **hiring events** for the month of June. The event, titled the **NYC Hospitality Alliance Hiring Hall**, was proudly hosted at the **EDSI-operated Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Career Center** in Harlem.

This hiring hall focused on connecting New Yorkers with employment opportunities in the **hospitality and food service industry**. Nearly **100 jobseekers from across all five boroughs** attended the event, where they had the opportunity to be screened by **Workforce1 recruiters and interview onsite** with a curated group of well-established employers.

Participating employers included:

- **Rustik Neighborhood Kitchen**
- **Flying Foods Catering**
- **Golden Age Hospitality Group**
- **Stout Hospitality Group**
- **The Stand Group**





The event produced strong results: **nearly one-third of attendees received immediate next steps**, including follow-up interviews and onboarding paperwork—demonstrating the clear alignment between jobseeker readiness and employer hiring needs.

The EDSI team played a critical role in the success of the event, managing all logistics end-to-end. This included jobseeker intake and registration, resume printing and updates, employer relationship coordination, on-the-spot screening, and overall event logistics. In addition, our Community Partner program provided onsite professional attire to jobseekers, helping them present their best selves and improve their chances of success.

SBS leadership was onsite and highlighted the event as a model for what Workforce1 centers can accomplish. They praised the Upper Manhattan team for its hospitality, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to serving both jobseekers and employers with care, energy, and excellence.

This event marks a strong start to the June series, and the continued collaboration between SBS, the NYC Hospitality Alliance, and EDSI in pursuit of providing equitable access to quality jobs across all neighborhoods and industries.







Building Workforce Connections: Berks County Job Fair Delivers Results

Berks County, PA

In April, the Berks County Team **hosted one of the region's largest job fairs** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Reading, PA, **drawing over 1,300 jobseekers and more than 85 employers** from across the area.

The event provided an opportunity for jobseekers to network and meet face-to-face with recruiters from industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, and hospitality. Many employers scheduled interviews or conducted on-the-spot interviews, some even extending job offers, highlighting the strong demand for talent in the region.

The job fair assisted with bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, fostering personal connections often elusive in the digital age of online applications. The positive feedback from both groups underscores the power of these personal connections, with many attendees leaving the event with new prospects and, in some cases, job offers.

Attendees were also invited to stop by a photobooth for free professional headshots and fun photos to commemorate the day.

Opening Doors to Opportunity: EDSI's ITG Fast Track Event Empowers Staten Island Jobseekers

Staten Island, NY

This Spring, the EDSI Staten Island team held an ITG Fast Track Event — a comprehensive event designed to connect jobseekers with critical career training opportunities through Individual Training Grants (ITGs).



The event welcomed individuals aged 18 and older who were eager to enhance their professional skills, earn industry-recognized certifications, and gain access to high-demand job opportunities. Attendees had the chance to sit down one-on-one with experienced Career Advisors to discuss their goals, review eligible training options, and take the first steps toward a more secure and rewarding future.

EDSI staff engaged with 81 jobseekers throughout the day, offering guidance on established training programs such as Security Guard, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and Information Technology (IT) certifications. In addition, the event served as a platform to debut exciting new training offerings in fast-growing fields, including Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing and Coding, and Home Health Aide programs.



The impact was both measurable and meaningful. As a direct outcome of the event, 25 jobseekers have already been connected to training grants, putting them on track to gain skills that align with evolving industry needs and workforce trends. By uniting career guidance with real-time access to training resources, the ITG Fast Track Event highlighted EDSI's continued commitment to empowering Staten Island's workforce.



In The Community

Compassion in Action: EDSI Responds to Storms

St Louis, Missouri

When disaster struck our Missouri region in the form of several devastating tornadoes that affected all three regions we serve in Missouri, the damage was swift and severe — homes and belongings lost, and lives turned upside down in moments. But in true EDSI fashion, the heartbreak was met with hope, as team members across the region sprang into action to support not only their EDSI colleagues, but also our partner and funder colleagues in need.



Within just days of the storm, staff from multiple sites mobilized to provide immediate, in-person relief. From clearing debris and delivering supplies to offering temporary housing and emotional support, the response was both rapid and remarkable. Gift cards were purchased, meals were shared, cleaning and hygiene items were donated, and safe places were made available — all fueled by compassion and community.





In addition to physical assistance, funders were offered support through grants made available by the state. EDSI staff immediately got to work, quickly formulating a plan of action to get these grants up and running as efficiently as possible.

In situations like this, we are so proud of our teammates for coming together to Show Up, Smile, and Support. These aren't just words; they are our guiding values, and they came to life in the most meaningful ways during these times of crisis.



Success Stories



Leonard F. – From Setback to Comeback

Wilkes-Barre, PA

Out-of-School Youth Program

GED in Progress | 3 of 4 Exams Passed

Leonard first connected with the program after several past attempts to re-engage in education. A high school dropout working full-time in food service, Leonard was determined to rewrite his story.

- **Turning Point:** In January, Leonard prioritized education, reduced work hours, and focused on his GED.
- **Milestones:**
  - Passed Reasoning Through Language Arts exam (March)
  - Began a new work experience (April)
  - Passed his third GED test (recently!)
- **Going Beyond:** Actively participates in career readiness workshops (Y.E.S.), Self Care Power Hour, and Transformative Tuesday sessions.

Why it Matters: Leonard's story reflects personal transformation and renewed purpose. With only one exam left, he's proving that it's never too late to change your path—especially when you believe in yourself.

Arrianna S. – Balancing Life, Work & Education

Luzerne County, PA

Hazleton WIOA Out-of-School Youth GED Program

GED Achieved | May 2025

A 24-year-old mother and caregiver from rural Fern Glen, Arrianna juggled parenting, a demanding job in a nursing home, and her GED studies.

- **Challenges Faced:**
  - Irregular attendance due to work conflicts and lack of transportation
  - Managing childcare for her young daughter
- **Breakthrough:** With program support and her own dedication, Arrianna improved her attendance and used at-home resources to study.
- **Victory:** Passed all GED exams and earned her GED in May 2025.

Next Steps: Arrianna plans to pursue higher education and continue her career in the nursing field.



New Business

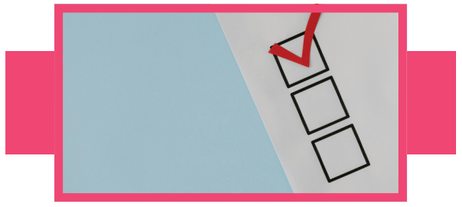
Contracts Won Between May-July 2025

Michigan

- **Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! Young Professionals Program Services**

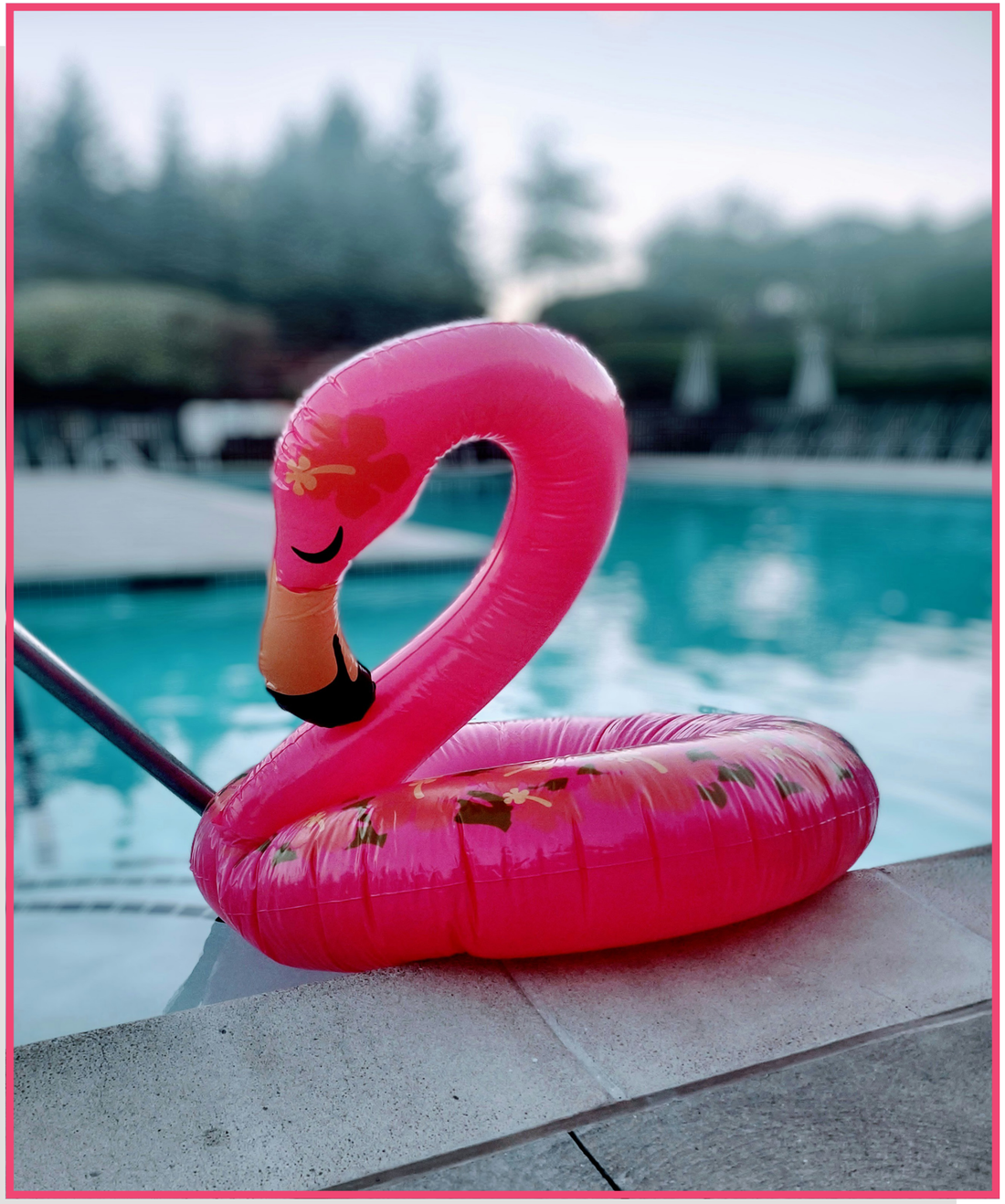
Pennsylvania

- **Bucks County EARN**
- **Lancaster EARN & Work Ready Program Services**



New York

- **NYC SBS Workforce1 Sector Career Centers HEALTHCARE**
- **NYC SBS Workforce1 Career Center One-Stop Operators STATEN ISLAND**
- **NYC SBS Workforce1 Career Center One-Stop Operator MANHATTAN**
- **NYC SBS Workforce1 Specialized Career Center Foreign-Born New Yorkers WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**



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