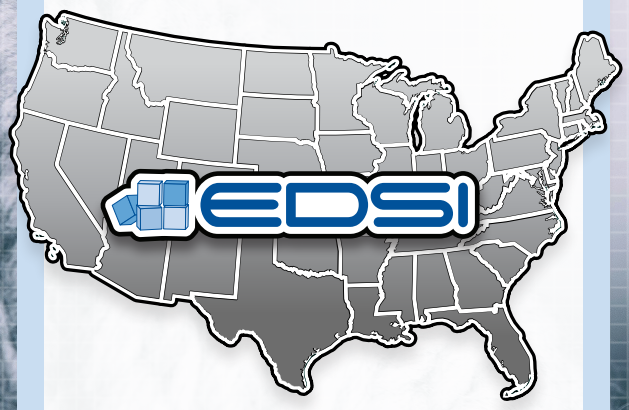
National Appeal Local Feel

In This Issue:

- Awards & Accolades
- Program Highlights & Innovations
- Partner Spotlight
- Success Stories
- Job Fairs & Conferences
- Blogs Published
- New Business

Oct. 2025 | Volume 11



| EDSI.com

Introducing This Month's Issue



Click to hear from our Regional Director of Operations Liz McLaughlin as she introduces the October 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

EDSI Named a 2025 Best and Brightest Company to Work For



EDSI is proud to share that we have been recognized as one of the Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in the Nation for the 14th consecutive year and Metropolitan Detroit's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For for the 16th consecutive year. These honors highlight our ongoing commitment to creating a workplace culture rooted in care, collaboration, and excellence. Being recognized year after year reflects the dedication of our incredible team members, whose passion and contributions make EDSI a place where people feel supported and inspired to do their best work. We are especially grateful to our employees for fostering an environment where people come first and success is shared. These awards affirm that our values are not just words on a page, but actions lived out every day across the company. We look forward to building on this strong foundation as we continue to grow together.

View all the 2025 winners here.



Celebrating Our 2025 Workforce Heroes

During **Workforce Development Month**, the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) named EDSI's **Kim Glenn**, **Managing Director of Innovative Learning Solutions**, and **Heather Pierce**, **Program Director**, as **2025 Workforce Heroes**. This national recognition highlights their leadership and meaningful contributions to the field. Kim is celebrated for advancing professional development for adult education professionals, including the creation and launch of KeyweLearn, while Heather is recognized for her dedication and impact in guiding programs that transform lives and strengthen communities. We are proud to see Kim and Heather honored on this stage, exemplifying the innovation, compassion, and results that drive EDSI's mission.



View all the 2025 heroes here.

Program Highlights & Innovations

Connecting Talent and Opportunity: A Model for Regional Workforce Development

Bucks & Montgomery Counties, PA

The Montgomery County One-Stop and The Bucks County One-Stop partnered with CAES Honeywell to deliver a series of highly successful hiring events, filling critical positions and strengthening employer relationships. The initial event drew over 100 jobseekers and set the tone for an ongoing collaboration built on direct access to hiring managers rather than only recruiters. CAES Honeywell was elated with the outcomes, noting progress toward filling over 150 open positions.



In total, four recruitment events have been held, drawing crowds of more than 100, 80, 60, and 50 applicants, with many participants receiving same-day job offers or callbacks. Ahead of each event, postings and flyers on the PACL website attracted applicants, while Business Services followed up personally with registrants to emphasize preparedness—reminding them to bring resumes, dress professionally, and be ready to interview. Staff also tabled at each event to provide onsite support, creating a welcoming and well-organized experience for attendees.





CAES Honeywell has also demonstrated a strong commitment to veterans, hosting a dedicated tour for veteran-serving organizations and hiring six veterans through the Veterans Employment Program Grant, with another currently in On-the-Job training. The WOW Bus added value by helping applicants with resume preparation and online applications, further boosting participation and outcomes.

With additional events already scheduled, this partnership highlights the impact of combining employer collaboration, veteran outreach, and Career Center Business Services support. The result is not only immediate hires, but also a strong pipeline of talent for Honeywell's future growth and a model of success for regional workforce development efforts.

Changing the Course: A Story of Transformation at P3

Philadelphia, PA

Click here to watch *Changing the Course*, a short docu-film that captures a transformative experience in the work of Pushing Progress Philly (P3), led by Dr. Kareem Brown.

A few months ago, several participants—many of whom have been charged or convicted of crimes connected to gun violence—were invited to learn the game of golf. This experience was about far more than just learning a sport. It was about shifting their environment, expanding their horizons, and changing the narrative about who they truly are when given the opportunity.

Stories like this serve as a reminder that with opportunity, mentorship, and trust, transformation is not only possible but inevitable.

Readers are invited to watch Changing the Course and witness the power of investing in people who are too often written off by society.



Helping IWCO Employees Turn Layoffs Into New Career Opportunities

Berks & Schuylkill Counties, PA



EDSI, in collaboration with Berks County One-Stop, Schuylkill County One-Stop, and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Rapid Response Team, provided extensive assistance to IWCO employees during the 2025 closure of the Hamburg facility. Following IWCO's April WARN notice that nearly 300 employees would be laid off in phases between June and December, services were strategically designed to prepare workers, connect them with immediate employment opportunities, and minimize disruption during the transition.

Support began with onsite pre-layoff workshops in late June, including Resume Writing and Interview Skills sessions, as well as a specialized 40+ Community Workshop later in the summer. These sessions were deliberately scheduled both during the day and outside of general business hours to ensure that employees from all shifts could participate. Workshops were also offered in English and Spanish, further broadening access for the workforce.

In July, the team delivered onsite Rapid Response orientations over multiple days, with both morning and evening sessions to reach every employee. These sessions provided workers with vital information on unemployment compensation, health insurance, reemployment services, and local training opportunities, with bilingual resources made available as needed.

To connect workers directly with employers, EDSI coordinated two dedicated onsite job fairs at IWCO in early July, engaging dozens of regional companies in manufacturing, logistics, and service sectors. Employer participation was streamlined with custom registration tools, and several local companies proactively sought to hire displaced IWCO employees.

Throughout the process, EDSI and CareerLink staff worked closely with IWCO's HR Team and community partners to coordinate logistics, tailor programming, and ensure clear communication with employees. This collaborative, multi-county effort balanced immediate reemployment opportunities with long-term career pathways, supporting both the workforce and the broader community during one of the region's largest workforce transitions in recent years.

Connecting Services, Creating Impact

Staten Island, NY

Workforce1 continues to build momentum in Staten Island, recently hosting a community partner meeting at the Seamen's Society for Children and Families. The event brought together over seven different local organizations focused on delivering vital services—from financial counseling and healthcare access to job training and employment opportunities.



We were joined by our valued partner, Ivan, a financial counselor from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), who shared two real-life client scenarios, sparking thoughtful discussion. Each organization explained their services, revealing new ways to collaborate and helping attendees discover resources they didn't know existed on Staten Island.

The meeting was a strong reminder of what's possible when organizations come together around a shared vision: opportunity, access, and community support.







Celebrating the Impact of System-Wide Services

Philadelphia, PA

System-Wide Services continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact across the community through dedicated outreach, innovative programming, and a strong commitment to inclusion. EDSI collaborates closely with Philadelphia Works, Inc. to implement work that touches the lives of individuals and families throughout the city, particularly those in need of second chances and pathways to self-sufficiency.

In recent months, the team has expanded its efforts to reach individuals at re-entry and recovery centers—ensuring that returning citizens and those on the road to recovery have access to critical support services. These include career counseling, job placement assistance, and connections to On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities that can lead to long-term employment and economic stability.

System-Wide Services has also played a crucial role in Philadelphia's Rapid Response initiatives, stepping in to support individuals affected by layoffs and helping them navigate transitions with dignity and hope. By linking jobseekers to immediate resources and employers to skilled candidates, they continue to strengthen the workforce and the community.

After months of hard work, the team came together on Juneteenth to relax, reflect, and celebrate. The day was filled with fun activities, games, and shared stories, reminding everyone of the power of unity and the importance of recharging in the spirit of community.

Thank you to everyone at System-Wide Services for your continued dedication, compassion, and service to Philadelphia. Your work is making a difference every single day.







Special Projects Team Supports with Strategic Hiring Events

Houston, TX

As part of EDSI's continued growth, a special projects team made up of team members from offices and regions across the company traveled to the Gulf Coast Region to support our Talent Team in their efforts to build the workforce for our newest contract.

The team participated in two major hiring events at Rice University and the Crowne Plaza Galleria Area, where they connected with hundreds of skilled and motivated jobseekers. Throughout the trip, the team embodied the EDSI values of Show Up, Smile and Support, sharing these values with potential candidates and building connections with like-minded individuals who align with our mission.

This effort represents only one part of a much larger undertaking to establish new offices and operations across the Gulf Coast Region. The trip advanced recruitment efforts while also highlighting how collaboration across regions, guided by shared values, strengthens EDSI's ability to positively impact the communities we serve.

High-Impact Job Fair Supports SPS Technologies Workers

Montgomery County, PA

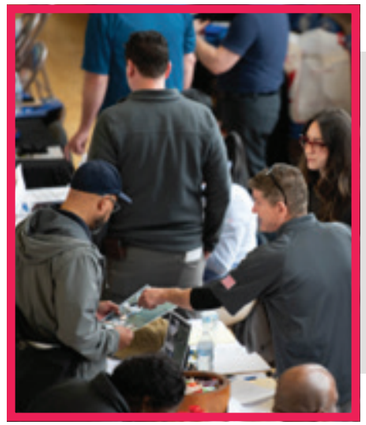
MontcoWorks and Montgomery County One-Stop hosted a dynamic job fair at Manor College to support workers displaced by a fire at SPS Technologies. Held in the college's gymnasium on Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown—just three miles from SPS headquarters—the event brought together a powerful network of employers, support services, and community partners.

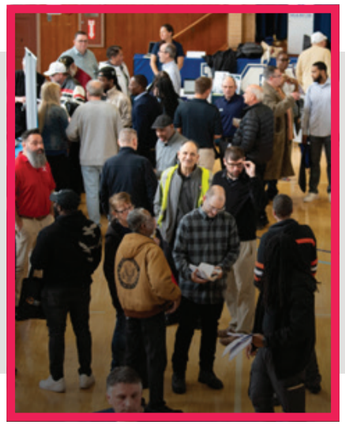
The devastating fire at SPS Technologies led to the loss of approximately 200 jobs, sparking an immediate and coordinated response from local and state workforce development teams. More than 30 employers participated in the job fair, including major out-of-state companies like Fastener Manufacturing from Texas and LISI Aerospace from California, both eager to recruit skilled workers. Rapid Response Teams and other vital support resources were also onsite to assist jobseekers.

Over 150 current and former SPS employees packed the gymnasium, seeking not only employment but also guidance and reassurance during this difficult time.

The event was honored by the presence of Nancy Walker, Secretary of Labor and Industry for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Secretary Walker toured the facility, spoke one-on-one with attendees and employers, and reaffirmed the state's commitment to helping affected workers reconnect with meaningful career opportunities.

This job fair served as a powerful example of how strong community partnerships and rapid action can turn crisis into opportunity—connecting skilled workers with employers and paving the way for recovery and growth.







Partner Spotlight

Building Bold Futures: EDSI's Collaborative Journey with Boys & Girls Clubs

Innovative Learning Solutions Team

At EDSI, we believe the best results come from real partnership. We don't just deliver a service; we walk alongside our customers as they define, refine, and expand their vision. The Innovative Learning Solutions Team's ongoing work with Boys & Girls Clubs shows how adaptability, collaboration, and trust can turn bold ideas into meaningful outcomes.



Industry Club participant sharing their project with an EDSI team member

Last year, EDSI proudly partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (BGCSM) to launch the first Inaugural Reimagine Summit. This event aimed to inspire Clubs nationwide to explore new ways of building pathways to economic mobility, aligned with the bold national goal to reduce youth poverty by 50% by 2050 through programming that creates and supports upward economic mobility. This year's 2nd Annual Reimagine Summit marked not only a continuation of that vision but also reflected participant feedback from the inaugural cohort. We refined and adapted programming to better meet the needs expressed by Club leaders, ensuring the 2nd Annual Summit was even more actionable and impactful. Rather than broadly expanding reach, the 2025 Summit made a more intentional effort to bring in Clubs specifically committed to advancing youth workforce development. This created deeper alignment, stronger collaboration, and a sharper focus on the Summit's purpose.

One of the main reasons our partnerships with Boys & Girls Clubs continue to grow is our approach. At EDSI, we don't show up with cookie-cutter answers. We roll up our sleeves and collaborate every step of the way. This flexibility also extends to how we approach Scopes of Work. We ensure deliverables are tailored to meet evolving needs and resolve pain points, adapting in real time so our partners feel supported every step of the way.

Our process is simple, yet powerful

EDSI's collaborative approach: Listen, Discover & Align → Design with Purpose → Develop & Build → Deliver & Support → Evaluate & Improve



This isn't just a framework – it's the reason our relationships thrive, and our impact expands.

This approach has guided our work in both Detroit and Newark. In Detroit, we've partnered with BGCSM to equip leaders with inspiration, skills, and practical resources that expand their capacity to serve youth. In Newark, New Jersey, our focus has been on creating direct, hands-on experiences for youth and young adults – ranging from workforce readiness to podcasting as a career track. With both Clubs, we listen closely, align around goals, build tailored solutions, support implementation, and continually evaluate and refine to make sure their vision comes to life.

Across every partnership, EDSI remains committed to being more than a vendor. We act as partners who help turn vision into reality. As the Boys & Girls Clubs pursue their ambitious goals for impact, EDSI is honored to grow alongside them – adapting, innovating, and collaborating every step of the way.



EDSI team supporting the 2nd Annual Reimagine Summit in Detroit, Michigan

Success Stories

Antonio S. – Second Chance: From Setbacks to Success

North Central, CT



Overcoming Early Hardships

Antonio was a participant in the February 2025 Cohort of the Manufacturing Training Program held at the CT State Capital Campus. His journey to that classroom was anything but easy. At the age of 15, Antonio lost his father, who was tragically shot to death by a burglar. Though his mother was supportive and did her best raising him, Antonio reflected, "I did miss out on not having my father during those teenage years." After high school, Antonio had hopes of continuing his education. But when he applied for financial aid, he was told no application had been received. Without aid, school was not possible. Years later, he learned that his application had been misplaced due to a spelling error in his name. "If they had found my application and approved it, it could have changed everything," he said.

A Series of Setbacks

Antonio worked various jobs while trying to figure out his path. Then, in late 2019, tragedy struck again. On the one-year anniversary of his fiancé's passing, he turned to alcohol and, in his grief, made a series of poor decisions that led to incarceration.

He was awaiting trial in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down courts across the country. The backlog left him in prison for more than four years before he was finally able to take a plea deal that allowed for his release.

Finding a Way Forward

Reentering the workforce proved difficult with a nearly five-year employment gap and a criminal record. But Antonio remembered hearing from a fellow inmate that Connecticut had grant funding available to help unemployed individuals. Determined to try, he searched online, completed the interest form, and began the application process for the Manufacturing Training Program. He was approved for funding but still needed to pass the assessment. He did, and soon after, he was accepted into the February 2025 cohort.

Support and Training

Antonio entered the program with little more than determination. He shared that he needed everything for the class including clothing, boots, and bus passes. He said his Career Advisor, Priscilla Franklin (EDSI), stepped in. “She was a real Godsend in helping me with it all. She was always so kind and assured me that we would work it out.”

The training experience proved invaluable. Antonio graduated on March 28, 2025, earning multiple certifications from the Introduction to Manufacturing course. On graduation day, he also had the opportunity to interview with several employers.

A New Beginning

Antonio was thrilled to receive a job offer from Pursuit Aerospace as a Metal Fabricator. He began on April 28, 2025 with a starting wage of $24 per hour plus full benefits.

“I am so grateful for this program, for giving me a second chance and to everyone who helped me. This has provided me a foundation to moving my whole life forward,” Antonio shared. His mother, he added proudly, “is very proud of him and tells everyone about his success in graduating.”

Not only is Antonio the first in his family to attend college, but he’s also grateful to Pursuit Aerospace “for giving me a chance to prove myself and not judging me on my past.”

Looking Ahead

As someone living with diabetes, Antonio values his new health benefits. He’s also excited about Pursuit’s career growth opportunities, noting, “They have a Career Path, and I will be able to move up quickly with them.”

“I am older now, I’m 5+ years clean from drugs and alcohol, and this is a great opportunity to make something good out of my life,” he said.

With the support of a financial planner, Antonio is setting new goals and looking forward to what’s next. Most importantly, he feels ready for “the rest of my life.”





The PA Good Jobs Challenge: Building Careers, Changing Lives

Philadelphia, PA

The PA Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) is a federally funded grant awarded to Philadelphia Works, Inc. and administered through the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, with the goal of connecting individuals to good jobs across the Southeastern PA region focusing on three sectors: Healthcare and Life Science, Infrastructure, and Energy. EDSI provides not only consultation and communications but support services as well, working with program partners and participants to ensure success.

The true success of the PA Good Jobs Challenge is best seen through the voices of those whose lives and careers are being transformed. The following video spotlights feature participants and partners sharing their journeys and successes.

GJC Spotlight Local 19 Instructor-Austin

Austin, is a third generation Local 19 Sheet Metal Worker and training instructor sharing about the variety of career paths through union sheet metal work.

GJC-PEA Employment Support Short

Hear about the impact of energy job training from the Director of Workforce Initiatives at the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA), Kate, Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) Training Instructors and program participants.

GJC-FTI Local 98 Alumni Spotlight-Ava

Local 98 Electrician Apprentice, Ava, shares what sparked her interest in her new career and hopes to become an educator in the field.

GJC-Alumni Spotlight-Mohamedlamin

Mohamedlamin gives insight into some of his favorite parts of training as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the JEVS Human Services program at Orleans Technical College.

Job Fairs & Conferences





Workforce Day 2025: Connecting Talent with Opportunity

Lackawanna County, PA

The Lackawanna County One-Stop recently hosted **Workforce Day 2025**, bringing together over **250 jobseekers and 26 employers** for a day focused on opportunity, connection, and growth.

The event underscored the power of workforce partnerships in strengthening local economies. Guest speaker Drew Popish, Regional Director of the Governor's Office, addressed attendees, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between employers, jobseekers, and workforce providers.

Media and community partners also played an important role in amplifying the event's impact. Rock 107 provided live, onsite coverage and promotional support, while Fox 56 News captured the energy of the day, airing a feature segment that included an ***interview with EDSI Business Services Representative Matt Giombetti.***

With high attendance, strong employer engagement, and valuable media visibility, Workforce Day 2025 stands as a testament to the ongoing efforts of the career center and EDSI to connect talent with opportunity and drive economic progress in the region.

Click here to watch the Fox 56 News interview with EDSI Business Services Representative Matt Giombetti.

Conference Season Highlights: EDSI in Action Across the Nation

This fall, EDSI team members have been on the go, attending, presenting at, and leading key workforce and education conferences—demonstrating our ongoing commitment to thought leadership, collaboration, innovation and continuous learning.











Blogs Published

Behind the Scenes of One-Stop Centers with One-Stop Operator Diana Monti

Ever wonder what goes into keeping our One-Stop Centers running smoothly? In our latest blog, we highlight the important role of the One-Stop Operator in coordinating services, building strong partnerships, and ensuring jobseekers and employers get the support they need.



Click to read the full blog!

AJC Certification: Driving Innovation and Equity in Workforce Development

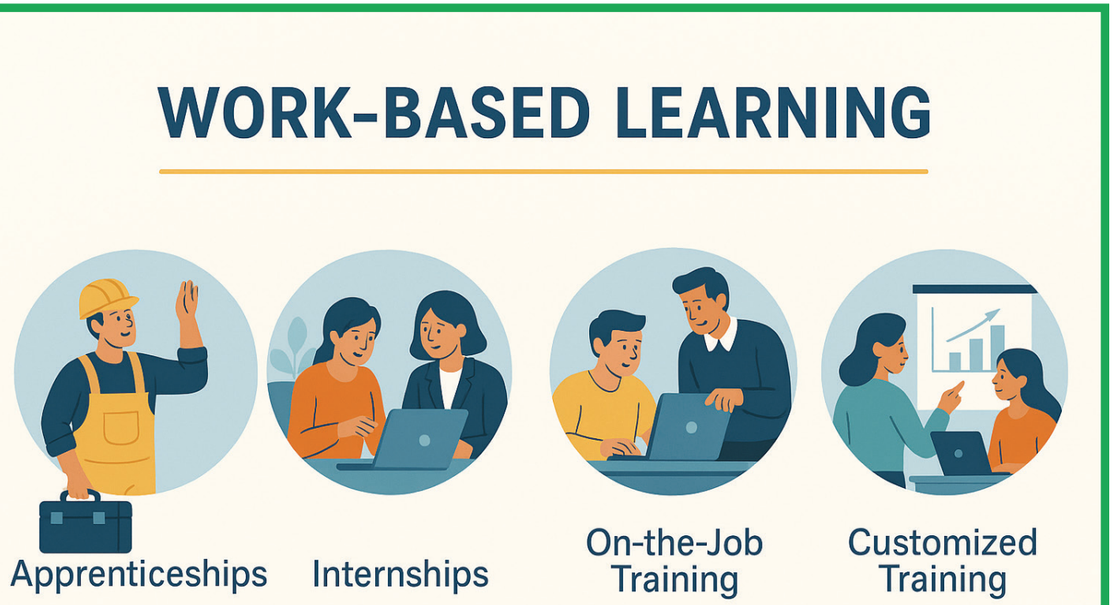
American Job Center (AJC) certification is more than a compliance milestone—it's a catalyst for innovation, integration, and equity. Discover how certified AJCs, including those operated by EDSI, are transforming into hubs of collaboration that connect jobseekers, employers, and communities. With real success stories and proven outcomes, certification is fueling workforce resilience and reshaping the future of work.



Click to read the full blog!

Building Stronger Workforces Through Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning (WBL) strategies are more than just training programs—they're powerful tools for connecting people with meaningful careers while helping employers build skilled, reliable teams. From internships and apprenticeships to On-the-Job training, WBL offers real-world experiences that bridge the gap between education and employment. In our latest blog, we highlight five impactful approaches to WBL, explore their benefits, and share success stories from the field.



Click to read the full blog!

New Business

Contracts Won Between August-October 2025

Michigan

- **SEMCA WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker - Wayne AJC**
- **SEMCA Youth Program Services - Wayne AJC**
- **SEMCA Business Services - Wayne County**

Texas

- **Houston-Galveston Area Council Career Services Unit Provider for Gulf Coast Workforce System**

Pennsylvania

- **Lackawanna WEX Payroll Processing Services - Ascend Staffing Contract**
- **Delaware County Business Services**





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National Appeal Local Feel

Oct. 2025 Volume 11

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