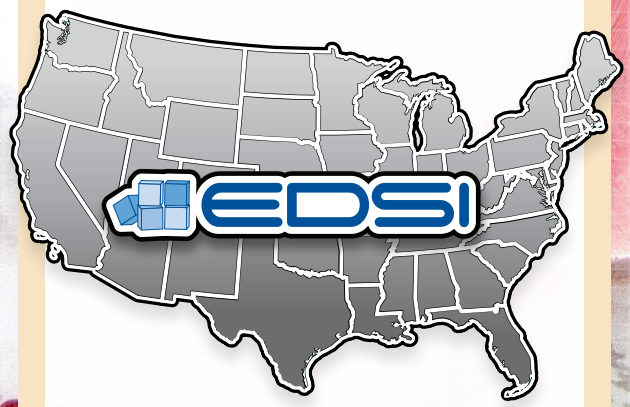
National Appeal Local Feel

In This Issue:

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

July 2026 | Volume 14



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Introducing This Month's Issue



Click to hear from our Regional Director Samantha Terry as she introduces the July edition of *National Appeal Local Feel* and speaks on EDSI's commitment to sharing its best practices, innovations and latest updates across all our regions.

Awards & Accolades





EDSI Earns Spot on the 2026 Largest Privately Held Companies List

Detroit, Michigan

We're proud to announce that EDSI has earned a place on the 2026 list of Largest Privately Held Companies in the Detroit area by Crain's Detroit Business. This recognition underscores the organization's continued growth, operational strength, and expanding impact across local and national communities. As a company grounded in a values-centered culture, EDSI's success is driven by its people-first approach – delivering innovative workforce solutions while building meaningful partnerships that strengthen the regions it serves.

Click here to see the complete list of winners.

Ivy Berry Receives 2026 PWDA Phoenix Award for Leadership in Workforce Development

Hershey, Pennsylvania

EDSI proudly recognizes Ivy Berry, Director of Programs in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as the recipient of the **2026 Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA) Phoenix Award** – a distinguished honor celebrating innovation, leadership, and service within the workforce development field.

Presented at PWDA's annual conference in Hershey, the Phoenix Award highlights professionals who are making a meaningful difference in the lives of jobseekers, colleagues, and communities. Ivy's work exemplifies this mission through her commitment to delivering both high-quality outcomes and human-centered support. Under her leadership, programs serving adult and dislocated workers have not only met expectations but consistently exceeded them. Ivy is known for fostering strong partnerships and advancing creative, holistic initiatives that support individuals on their path to employment and stability.





Her leadership style – grounded in empathy, integrity, and collaboration – has strengthened teams, deepened community impact, and reinforced the importance of dignity in service delivery.

This milestone is particularly significant for EDSI, as Ivy joins Roe Falcone, Director of Strategic Partnerships, who was honored as the inaugural Phoenix Award recipient in 2022.



Ivy Berry's recognition reflects the continued impact of EDSI's mission to advance workforce solutions that transform lives and strengthen communities. Please join us in congratulating Ivy on this honor.

Accolades for EDSI's Southeast Missouri Team at MAWD

Southeast Missouri

EDSI's Southeast Missouri region walked away from the 2026 Missouri Association for Workforce Development (MAWD) Conference with three well-deserved accolades.

The Southeast Missouri STEM Career Pathway Apprenticeship Initiative earned the Local Excellence Award in Partnership (LEAP), EDSI Program Manager Cathy Harris received the Workforce Keystone Award, and Southeast Workforce Development Board Program Operations Director Gretchen Morse was named Workforce Professional of the Year, a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation across the region.

Special thanks to Regional Director and MAWD Past President Samantha Terry, who played a key role in supporting the conference and cheering on the team. With EDSI also serving as a Platinum Sponsor, it was a proud and celebratory moment for all.





Program Highlights & Innovations

Food Truck Challenge Sparks Student Innovation

Northwest Pennsylvania

Creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit were on full display at a recent student-led event supported by the Northwest PA TANF team. Participants took on the challenge of designing and launching their own food truck businesses, transforming classroom concepts into fully developed business ideas.

Working in teams, students created comprehensive business plans that included unique menu offerings, branding concepts, social media marketing strategies, promotional coupons, and professional business cards. The project encouraged participants to think beyond the food itself, exploring the many elements that contribute to building and promoting a successful business.









Eight teams presented their food truck concepts to a panel of judges that included members of the Northwest PA TANF team and representatives from the local workforce board. Students also served samples inspired by their menus, giving judges and attendees a firsthand look at the creativity and effort behind each business idea.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for participants to strengthen skills that extend far beyond entrepreneurship, including teamwork, communication, problem-solving, marketing, and public speaking. By combining hands-on learning with real-world business concepts, students gained practical experience that can help prepare them for future education and career pathways.

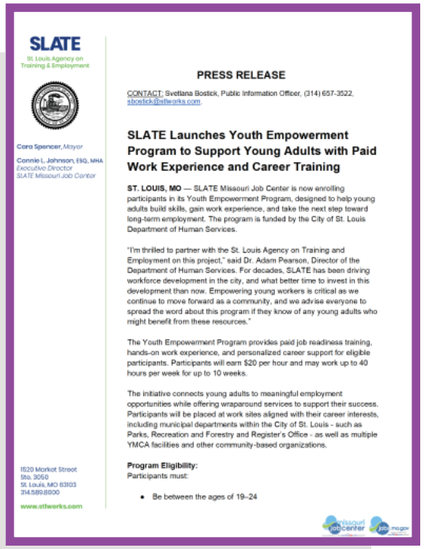
Initiatives like this demonstrate the Northwest PA TANF team's commitment to creating engaging opportunities that build confidence, foster innovation, and help young people develop the skills needed to succeed in today's workforce.



Opening Doors to Opportunity: SLATE's New Youth Empowerment Program

St. Louis, Missouri

The SLATE Missouri Job Center is helping young adults take the next step toward meaningful careers through its new Youth Empowerment Program. Offering paid work experience, career training, and personalized support, the initiative is creating pathways to employment while strengthening the future workforce of St. Louis.



SLATE

St. Louis Agency on Training & Employment

Cora Spencer, *Mayor*

Connie L. Johnson, ESQ, MHA
Executive Director
SLATE Missouri Job Center

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Svetlana Bostick, Public Information Officer, (314) 657-3522, sbostick@stlworks.com

SLATE Launches Youth Empowerment Program to Support Young Adults with Paid Work Experience and Career Training

ST. LOUIS, MO — SLATE Missouri Job Center is now enrolling participants in its Youth Empowerment Program, designed to help young adults build skills, gain work experience, and take the next step toward long-term employment. The program is funded by the City of St. Louis Department of Human Services.

"I'm thrilled to partner with the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment on this project," said Dr. Adam Pearson, Director of the Department of Human Services. For decades, SLATE has been driving workforce development in the city, and what better time to invest in this development than now. Empowering young workers is critical as we continue to move forward as a community, and we advise everyone to spread the word about this program if they know of any young adults who might benefit from these resources."

The Youth Empowerment Program provides paid job readiness training, hands-on work experience, and personalized career support for eligible participants. Participants will earn $20 per hour and may work up to 40 hours per week for up to 10 weeks.

The initiative connects young adults to meaningful employment opportunities while offering wraparound services to support their success. Participants will be placed at work sites aligned with their career interests, including municipal departments within the City of St. Louis - such as Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Register's Office - as well as multiple YMCA facilities and other community-based organizations.

Program Eligibility:
Participants must:

- Be between the ages of 19–24

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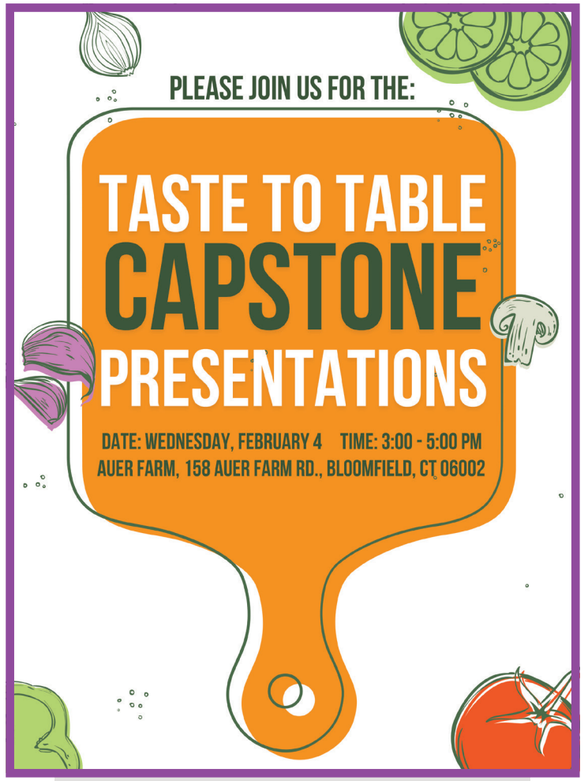
Click here to read the press release from the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment.

From Taste to Table: Turning Passion into Possibility

Hartford, Connecticut

Our North Central American Job Center (AJC) team recently piloted an innovative opportunity for Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) participants – **the Taste to Table Accelerator Program** – designed to move individuals from hands-on training to real-world success in the food industry.

Hosted at the Hartford AJC, the program combined culinary instruction with career readiness, allowing participants to develop practical skills in food production, menu preparation, and cost management while earning their ServSafe certification, a critical credential for entering the industry. A portion of the





training also took place at **Auer Farm**, where participants gained valuable hands-on experience in a unique, real-world setting that connected food preparation with fresh, local ingredients.

Beyond the kitchen, participants engaged with a network of professionals, including representatives from the Health Department, marketing experts, and local business owners. These connections provided valuable insights into both employment and entrepreneurship pathways, expanding participants' understanding of what's possible in the culinary field.

A defining feature of the program was its **capstone business project**, where each participant created a business plan centered around a signature dish that reflected their personal goals. Concepts ranged from meal prep services and food trucks to careers in institutional food service, such as hospital kitchen management.

The program's success was further strengthened through the partnership and mentorship of Chef Kristiann Vargas of Distinctive Ideas, whose hands-on guidance and industry expertise gave participants the confidence and skills to take the next step in their journey.

Responsible by Design: How ILS Matches AI to the Work

How we put the right AI tool on the right problem, keep people at the center, and stay true to the values you already know us for.

AI is everywhere right now, and most of the conversation swings between breathless excitement and quiet worry. In EDSI's Innovative Learning Solutions (ILS) team, we land somewhere more useful. AI is a tool. A good one, when it's used well. And like any tool we pick up, it has to earn its place by making our work better for our customers, not just faster for us.

If you've worked with EDSI, you already know what we care about. We show up, we smile, and we support. Those three values shape everything we do, and they shape how we use AI too. Showing up means a real person owns the work and stands behind it. Smiling means we wonder and work together to develop solutions to delight our customers. Supporting means we build for every learner and stay in your corner as a partner, not just a vendor.

We match AI to the problem in front of us instead of chasing whatever is new this week. If a tool doesn't solve a real problem, it doesn't make it into a project. And we're always happy to tell customers exactly how we use it, because they deserve to know what goes into the courses, videos, and programs we build.


Training - WIOA - Workforce Development

Responsible by Design: How ILS Matches AI to the Work

Kim Glenn - Managing Director, Innovative Learning Solutions - Jun 24, 2026

SHARE

How we put the right AI tool on the right problem, keep people at the center, and stay true to the values you already know us for.

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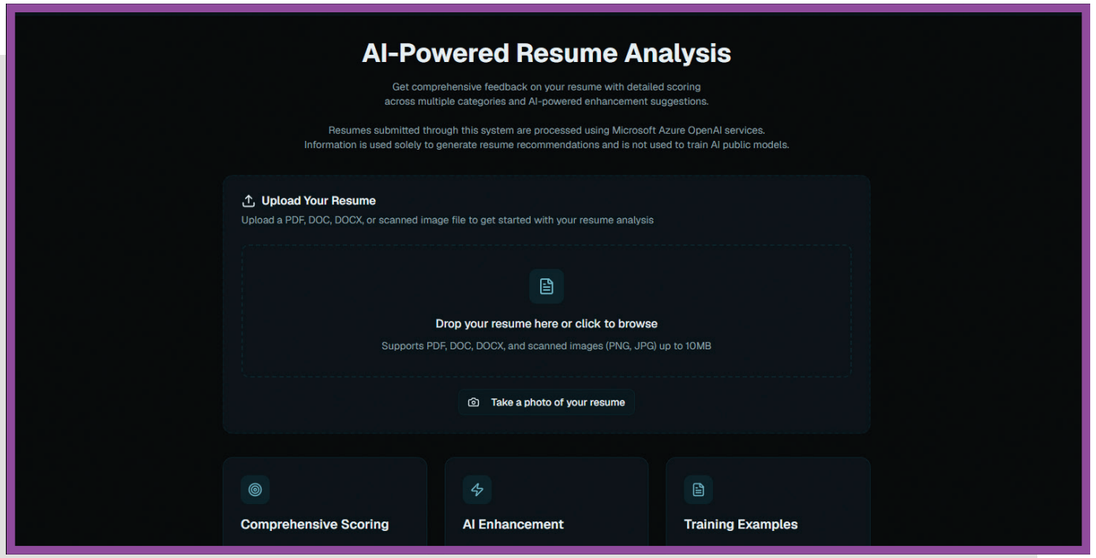
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How We Pick the Right Tool for the Job

So how do we decide which tool fits where? We lean on the TWINS framework,

Click here to read the entire article on our blog.



EDSI's IT Team Program Innovations

AI in Action: Building Smarter Tools, Stronger Teams, and Better Outcomes

Over the past several months, EDSI's Information Technology team has been focused on a simple question:

How can we use AI and technology to remove administrative burden so our staff can spend more time doing what they do best – serving people?

That question has driven a series of new innovations across the organization, from AI-powered workforce tools to staff training initiatives designed to make emerging technologies practical, accessible, and useful in everyday work.

One of the most visible examples is the continued growth of EDSI's Resume Builder and AI Resume Grader tools. These solutions help staff and job seekers create, review, and improve resumes more efficiently while maintaining the human coaching and expertise that remain at the center of EDSI's services. Early feedback from multiple programs has highlighted significant time savings and increased consistency in resume development, allowing staff to spend more time on career coaching and customer engagement.

The team has also been exploring new AI-powered solutions designed

specifically for workforce development. Recent efforts include the continued development of the WIOA Navigator, an intelligent intake solution designed to help simplify the eligibility and enrollment process while improving the experience for both participants and staff. By leveraging conversational AI and workflow automation, the project aims to reduce paperwork, streamline intake activities, and improve access to workforce services.

Technology innovation at EDSI isn't limited to applications and automation. A major focus has been building AI knowledge and confidence across the organization. This spring, EDSI launched the AI Guilds initiative, creating collaborative spaces where employees can share ideas, experiment with new tools, discuss real-world challenges, and learn from one another. Rather than focusing solely on technology, the Guilds emphasize practical problem-solving, helping teams identify opportunities where AI can save time, improve quality, and create better experiences for customers.

In addition, the IT team recently delivered a series of AI training sessions covering topics such as AI fundamentals, responsible AI use, prompt engineering, workflow automation, and practical applications for workforce development professionals. These sessions were designed to help staff move beyond curiosity and begin applying AI tools in ways that support their daily work while maintaining EDSI's commitment to data privacy, customer service, and human-centered decision making.

While each project serves a different purpose, they all share a common goal: enabling staff to work smarter, reduce repetitive administrative tasks, and spend more time supporting job seekers, employers, and communities.

As AI continues to evolve, EDSI remains focused on practical innovation – building solutions that create measurable value while keeping people at the center of everything we do. The technology may be new, but the mission remains the same: helping individuals and communities achieve success through meaningful work.



Special Projects

EDSI Shows Up Strong for National Apprenticeship Week

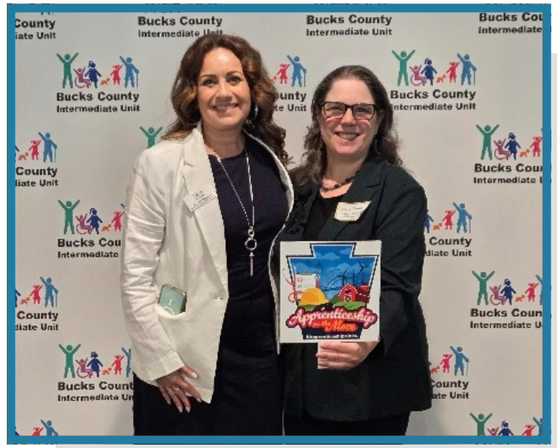
Regions across the country

EDSI teams were out and about in the community to support and celebrate National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) – demonstrating our commitment to building strong workforce pathways and meaningful partnerships. From hosting events and attending regional celebrations to engaging employers, connecting with job seekers, and sharing the value of registered apprenticeship, our teams were actively involved in every corner of the Commonwealth.

NAW was a great reminder of the impact we can make together. Whether collaborating with partners, promoting innovative programs, or learning alongside industry leaders, EDSI continues to play a key role in advancing apprenticeship as a workforce solution.

We're so fortunate to have several team members who specialize in apprenticeship, including Regional Apprenticeship Manager, Adina Tayar, whose leadership and continued dedication to expanding apprenticeship across Pennsylvania and beyond is instrumental.









Apprenticeship Roundtable Connects Stakeholders from Across the Region

Erie County/Oil Region, Pennsylvania

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, the Erie County/Oil Region One-Stop hosted a Regional Apprenticeship Roundtable at the Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity (ALIC) in Meadville. The event was designed to convene employers, educators, workforce partners, and community organizations from across Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, Clarion, and Forest counties to explore apprenticeship as a workforce solution and strengthen regional collaboration.

A total of 26 participants attended, representing Early Childhood and K-12 Education, CTE and other training providers, industry associations, workforce and community organizations, registered apprenticeship program sponsors, economic development, employers, and small businesses. Industries represented included Education, Construction Trades, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Castings & Forgings.

The morning began with a series of brief spotlight presentations highlighting real-world apprenticeship experiences across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, construction, early childhood education, and postsecondary training. These



perspectives helped ground the conversation in practical application and set the stage for meaningful dialogue.

Participants then engaged in facilitated small-group discussions focused on identifying regional workforce needs, opportunities to expand apprenticeship programs, and strategies to better align training with employer demand. The structure of the event intentionally emphasized cross-sector collaboration, ensuring that each discussion table included a mix of employer, education, and workforce voices.







Several key themes emerged across discussions:

- Strong employer interest in developing or expanding apprenticeship programs to address skilled labor shortages
- Need for clearer pathways and stronger alignment between K-12, CTE, postsecondary education, and employers
- Opportunities to increase awareness of apprenticeship as a viable career pathway for youth and adults
- Importance of intermediary support, such as local career centers, in helping employers navigate program development and connect with training partners

In addition to discussion outcomes, the event strengthened regional partnerships and created new connections to support future collaboration. Resource tables and networking opportunities increased awareness of workforce services and training supports available to employers and job seekers.

Overall, the roundtable successfully met its intended purpose of elevating apprenticeship as a regional workforce strategy while generating actionable insights and engagement from key stakeholders. The event further positioned the One-Stop as a central convener and connector in advancing apprenticeship pathways across the region.

Strengthening Michigan's Workforce: Celebrating Impact Through Apprenticeship

Macomb & St. Clair Counties, Michigan

This spring, workforce leaders, partners, and policymakers from across the state gathered at the Michigan State Capitol to celebrate the 2026 Michigan Works! Association Impact Awards – an event that highlights the individuals and organizations making a meaningful difference in Michigan's economy.



Among those recognized was Power Solutions, a standout example of how strategic partnerships and innovative workforce programs can create real opportunity.

Through its partnership with Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair, Power Solutions has successfully implemented a Registered Apprenticeship program since 2023. In just a short time, the company has trained more than 30 apprentices, helping to build a skilled talent pipeline in high-demand industries while offering individuals a clear pathway to long-term, sustainable careers.

This success reflects the power of collaboration. By leveraging Michigan Works! Services – including talent recruitment, training cost support, and supportive services – Power Solutions has been able to remove barriers for



participants and ensure apprentices have the resources they need to succeed both in the program and on the job.

The result is a win across the board: individuals gain valuable skills and career stability, businesses strengthen their workforce, and the broader community benefits from a more resilient and competitive economy.

Programs like these demonstrate what is possible when employers and workforce development partners align around a shared goal – developing talent and creating opportunity. As Michigan continues to adapt to evolving industry demands, initiatives like Registered Apprenticeships will remain a critical tool in closing skills gaps and preparing the workforce of the future.

The Michigan Works! Association Impact Awards serve as an important reminder that behind every statistic are real stories of growth, collaboration, and success – and that partnerships like the one between Power Solutions and Michigan Works! are helping to shape a stronger Michigan for years to come.



Behind the Scenes of the Wellness to Work Video Series

Pennsylvania & Michigan

This spring the Wellness to Work (W2W) team came together in Berks County, PA for a Behavioral Health Advocate (BHA) Connection Day focused on professional development, collaboration, and workplace wellness, strengthening alignment across the BHA team. While the day provided valuable opportunities for team members to connect and learn from one another, it also served as the foundation for a new multimedia project designed to extend those conversations beyond the room.

The Berks County Digital Media Producer did a wonderful job of capturing the day of stories, insights, and experiences of EDSI's Behavioral Health Advocates. Throughout the morning, individual video interviews were conducted with team members, exploring topics related to workplace wellness, self-care, resilience, and the unique role BHAs play in supporting job seekers and employees of EDSI.

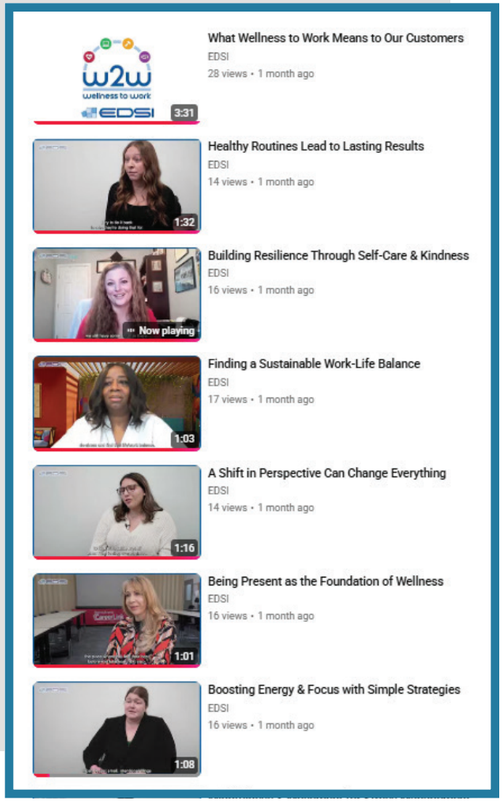
The result was a ten-video YouTube playlist that showcases a variety of wellness perspectives and practical strategies that can be applied both in and outside the workplace. In addition to the interviews, the event featured wellness activity sharing, team collaboration, and professional



development training focused on strengthening behavioral health practices. To ensure inclusion across regions, Michigan-based BHAs were able to participate virtually, joining key portions of the day through Microsoft Teams and contributing to the shared learning and discussion.

“This experience was a meaningful reflection of the care and intention our BHA team brings to the work every day. I’m especially grateful for the partnership with our marketing team in recognizing the value of elevating these voices. Wellness to Work supports not only customers but also colleagues, reducing stigma, and making wellness a core part of workforce readiness,” ***– Shay Jones-Vitale, EDSI Behavioral Health Coordinator***.

Beyond the cameras and lighting, the project was really about giving our team a platform to share their expertise. The candid conversations captured throughout the day reflect the passion and commitment our BHAs bring to their work every day. Through video, we were able to preserve those conversations and make them accessible to everyone. The Wellness to Work video series stands as an example of how storytelling and workforce development can work together to promote healthier workplaces, encourage meaningful dialogue, and highlight the people who make these efforts possible.



Click here to watch the W2W videos.

Job Fairs & Conferences

Workforce Wins Employer Forum Highlights Key Insights from Local Employers

Delaware County, PA

The Delaware County One-Stop, in partnership with the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, recently hosted a Workforce Wins Employer Forum, bringing together a small group of employers for an in-depth, conversation-driven session focused on today’s workforce challenges. Grounded in current labor market conditions, the discussion reflected a tight hiring environment marked by limited candidate availability, skills gaps, and growing competition for talent.

The forum provided valuable insight into what employers across industries are experiencing. A consistent theme was the challenge of finding qualified candidates who meet baseline requirements such as credentials, experience, and reliability. Even when applicant volume is high, many employers shared that it does not necessarily translate into viable hires. At the same time, retention continues to be a significant concern, with employers noting increased demand for flexibility, work-life balance, and competitive wages.

Scheduling was another common barrier, particularly in industries like childcare and healthcare, where nontraditional hours make it difficult to attract and retain staff. Employers also highlighted the strain of limited internal capacity, with many feeling overwhelmed by the time and resources required to recruit, hire, and train employees effectively.

Equally important, the conversation surfaced strategies that are making a difference. Employers emphasized the value of employee referrals, transparency during the hiring process, and realistic job previews to improve candidate fit. Strong onboarding

practices and a focus on workplace culture were also identified as key drivers of retention.

The forum reinforced the importance of partnership, showcasing how the One-Stop and the Chamber of Commerce work together to connect employers to workforce solutions, business resources, and each other. These insights will help guide future efforts to align services with the real-time needs of Delaware County employers.

Spring Job Fair Draws Nearly 1,000 Job Seekers and More Than 80 Employers

Berks County, Pennsylvania

The Spring 2026 Job Fair proved to be one of the largest workforce events of the year in Berks County, bringing together 81 employers and 970 job seekers for a day focused on employment opportunities, workforce connections, and economic growth.

Hosted through a collaborative effort of workforce development partners, the event provided employers with direct access to a diverse pool of job seekers representing a wide range of experience levels, industries, and career interests. Participating employers recruited for positions spanning manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, logistics, skilled trades, customer service, education, public service, and many other sectors critical to the region's economy.

For job seekers, the event offered a unique opportunity to engage face-to-face with hiring managers, learn about available career pathways, submit resumes, and explore training and employment opportunities available throughout Berks County. Many attendees reported making valuable connections with employers and gaining insight into career options they had not previously considered.



The strong turnout from both employers and job seekers reflects the continued demand for workforce development services and highlights the important role that community partnerships play in connecting local talent with local businesses. Events such as the Spring Job Fair help strengthen the regional workforce by creating opportunities for meaningful employment while supporting employers in addressing their hiring needs.

The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the participation of the 81 employers who invested their time in meeting prospective candidates, the nearly 1,000 job seekers who attended, and the dedicated workforce professionals and community partners who helped make the event possible. Together, these efforts continue to support a stronger workforce and a stronger Berks County economy.







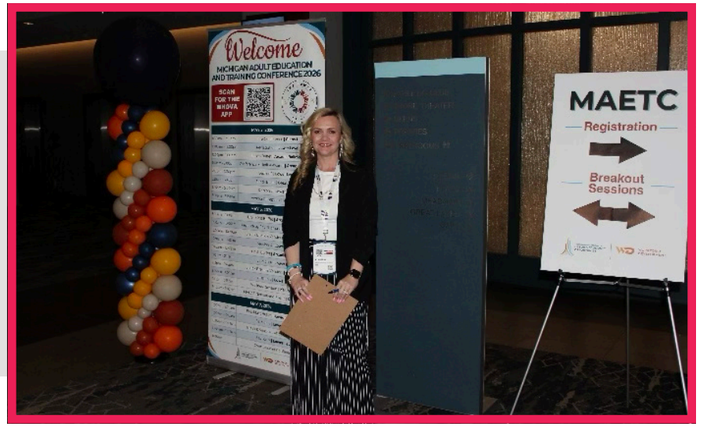


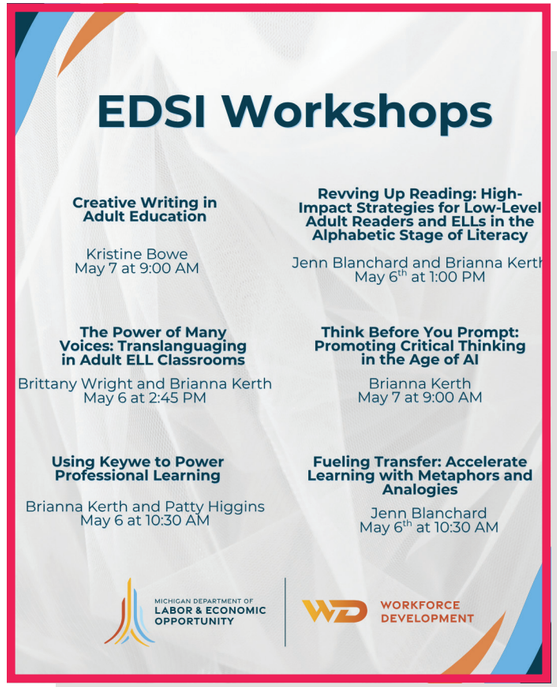
The Power of EDSI on Display at MAETC 2026

EDSI was proud to play a key role in this year's Michigan Adult Education & Training Conference (MAETC) in Kalamazoo, Michigan – an energizing few days filled with learning, collaboration, and connection. What made this event especially impactful was the incredible teamwork behind it. While our Innovative Learning Solutions (ILS) team led the event, many EDSI team members from across the company stepped in to support, contribute and bring the experience to life.

From engaging workshops facilitated by our team to interactive booths and games that brought attendees together, EDSI's presence was felt throughout the conference as we shared knowledge and best practices, and embraced the opportunity to learn alongside peers – reinforcing our commitment to continuous growth.









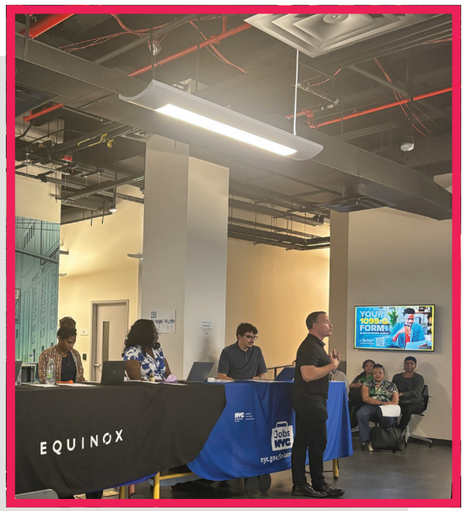




Connecting Talent to Opportunity: Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Delivers Hiring Success

Upper Manhattan, New York





The Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Career Center, in partnership with Equinox and the New York State Department of Labor Lower Manhattan office, recently hosted a high energy, large scale hiring event that delivered exceptional results for both jobseekers and employers.

A total of 122 candidates attended the event, with an impressive 73 receiving job offers after interviewing for roles including front desk associates, maintenance staff, and retail sales positions. The presence of Equinox's Regional Vice President, 2 Senior Site Directors, 10 Site Directors, and an HR Manager created a unique opportunity for candidates to engage directly with senior leadership and participate in on-the-spot interviews, adding a level of immediacy and excitement to the hiring process.

The event was expertly organized by the Upper Manhattan Workforce1 team, who transformed the space into a fully operational hiring hub – coordinating logistics, setting up interview stations, and implementing a streamlined flow that ensured a seamless experience from check-in to interview. Their hands-on approach and attention to detail were instrumental in the event's success.



In collaboration with the New York City Department of Small Business Services Jobs NYC team, staff also collected job seeker feedback through surveys, capturing valuable insights on the candidate experience while promoting the wide range of hiring events hosted across New York City each month.

The atmosphere throughout the day was overwhelmingly positive. Job seekers expressed excitement and appreciation for the opportunity, while staff and partners brought energy, professionalism, and a shared commitment to connecting New Yorkers to meaningful careers. The event stands as a strong example of how coordinated partnerships and dedicated teams can drive real hiring outcomes and elevate workforce development efforts citywide.

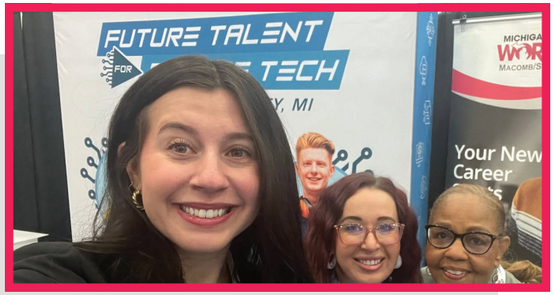
Driving Connections and Strengthening Community: Michigan Works! in Action

Macomb/St. Clair, Michigan

Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! continues to play a vital role in strengthening connections across the region, engaging employers, workforce partners, veterans, and community leaders to support a responsive and future-ready workforce.

Recent outreach efforts across Macomb County highlight an ongoing commitment to collaboration and service. At the Michigan Defense Expo (MDEX), representatives partnered with Macomb County Planning & Economic Development to engage directly with







defense employers. These discussions provided valuable insight into workforce needs, industry trends, and opportunities for continued growth within this critical sector.

Regional collaboration was also on display at the Governor's Luncheon hosted by Connect Macomb and the Macomb County Chamber. Conversations focused on the future of the automotive, aerospace, and defense industries, while emphasizing the importance of Selfridge Air National Guard Base as a key driver of economic and workforce stability.

Supporting those who have served remains a priority. During a Veterans Resource Fair, workforce professionals connected veterans, active-duty service members, and their families with career services, employment resources, and guidance to help navigate civilian career pathways.

These efforts reflect a broader commitment to staying connected with the communities and industries that shape the region. By fostering strong partnerships and expanding access to opportunities, Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! continues to help build a skilled workforce and a vibrant local economy.

Next Step Job Fair and Transfer Fair Brings Employers, Colleges, and Job Seekers Together

Park Hills, Missouri

On April 8, the **Next Step Job Fair and Transfer Fair** was held at Mineral Area College, bringing together job seekers, students, employers, and higher education partners from across Southeast Missouri. The event marked the eighth year of collaboration among the Missouri Job Center–Park Hills, the Office of Workforce Development, EDSI, the Workforce Development Board, and Mineral Area College.

This year's fair featured **53 employers** representing a wide range of industries, alongside **14 colleges and universities** offering transfer and continuing education options. A total of **276 attendees** participated, including college students, high school students, and community members seeking employment or educational advancement.













Employers reported strong engagement throughout the event, with several conducting on-the-spot interviews and connecting with more candidates than anticipated. Attendees benefited from direct access to hiring managers, academic advisors, and workforce professionals, gaining valuable insight into career pathways, training opportunities, and next steps toward long-term success.

“The Next Step Job Fair and Transfer Fair continues to serve as a vital link between education and employment, reinforcing the region’s commitment to workforce development and economic growth. Through these great partnerships and shared goals, the event helps ensure that students and job seekers are equipped with the connections and resources they need to move forward with confidence.”

– Samantha Terry, EDSI Regional Director of Operations



Success Stories

A Journey of Perseverance: Aim & Attain Participant Earns Nursing Degree

Bucks County, Pennsylvania



We are proud to celebrate the success of a Zikiyya Jones from the Bucks County One-Stop’s Aim & Attain program who has graduated from Bucks County Community College, achieving an important milestone on her educational journey.

The Aim & Attain program was designed to support students who had one year or less remaining to complete their academic program and who had withdrawn from school after the Spring 2020 semester. Through this initiative, she was able to return to her studies and earn her first Associate of Health Science degree.

Determined to continue building her future, she remained enrolled at Bucks County Community College and, with the assistance of a partial scholarship, went on to complete her Associate Degree in Nursing.

Throughout her academic journey, she demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. It has been a privilege to support her and witness her growth and success firsthand.

Her achievement is a powerful reflection of EDSI's mission to Show Up, Smile, and Support. It highlights the difference that encouragement, resources, and opportunity can make in helping individuals overcome challenges and achieve their educational and career goals.

Congratulations to her on this outstanding accomplishment. We look forward to seeing the positive impact she will make in her nursing career and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

From Determination to Distinction: Cherelle Auguste's Workforce Journey

Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania

Meet Cherelle Auguste – a shining example of what determination, opportunity, and support can achieve. Cherelle's dedication and drive have earned her a Governor's Achievement Award, and she will be recognized at the upcoming Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association Annual Conference – an incredible and well-deserved honor.



From the very beginning, Cherelle stood out at Lehigh Valley One-Stop as a focused and motivated job seeker, fully embracing every opportunity available to her. She successfully completed welding training through Lehigh Career & Technical Institute (LCTI), where her commitment and work ethic quickly paid off – earning her a job offer upon graduation.

But Cherelle's journey didn't end there. She continues to give back by returning to Lehigh Valley One-Stop to uplift, motivate, and encourage other job seekers as they navigate their own paths. Her story is a powerful reminder that with determination, the right support system, and a commitment to growth, meaningful and lasting success is within reach.



Pictured: Cherelle Auguste alongside Lehigh Valley One-Stop staff who supported her journey every step of the way.



Blogs Published

Turnaround & Restructuring: Insights from the Field

When businesses face financial pressure, the warning signs often appear long before the numbers tell the full story. In a recent Q&A, **Jim Bitterle, EDSI Managing Partner of Consulting**, shares practical insights from his decades of experience helping organizations navigate distress, stabilize cash flow, and chart a path forward.

From recognizing early operational red flags to understanding what really separates companies that successfully recover, Jim breaks down complex turnaround concepts in a clear, approachable way – highlighting the critical role EDSI plays in guiding leaders through challenging moments.



Click here to read the full blog on EDSI's website.

Pushing Progress Together: Making an Impact in Philadelphia

Through the Pushing Progress Philly (P3) initiative, Philadelphia is taking a comprehensive approach to gun violence reduction by connecting individuals to behavioral health services, workforce development opportunities, and community support.

Guided by a model of **"relentless engagement"**, P3 focuses on building trust with participants who may be disconnected from traditional systems, creating pathways to stability, opportunity, and long-term success. The result is a powerful model that is changing lives and strengthening communities.

Click here to read the full blog on EDSI's website.



New Business

New Business Wins

Florida

- CareerSource Capital Region (Tallahassee) Workforce Development Services Provider

New Jersey

- PACE NJ - subcontract with Carpenter Union and Aztec

Oregon

- Workforce Talent and Development Board Continuous Improvement Committee Assessment 2026

Missouri

- St. Louis County One-Stop Operator

North Carolina

- Raleigh Training, Competency, and Career Pathing Framework
- Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) - Human Resources, Organizational Development and Training On-Call Services





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