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APRIL - JUNE 2024

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REPORTIEC Chesapeake
Pre-Apprenticeship Cohort

This school year, 11 high school seniors from Meade, Old Mill, North County, and Crofton High Schools successfully completed their pre-apprenticeship program at Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake, in partnership with AAWDC. Of these, eight have accepted job offers from partner companies including BoMark Electric, Solar Gaines LLC, MC Dean, Bausum and Duckett, and Grounded Electrical and will begin their first year of electrical apprenticeship training this fall. Additionally, three graduates have chosen to pursue careers in plumbing, I.T. security, and the military.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

MAY 2024

MARYLAND 2.3%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 2.0%

ANNE ARUNDEL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



ShaVonne Montgomery, a military spouse and veteran, came to AAWDC's Military Career Connections through a referral from Blue Star Families. Seeking federal employment in the I.T. industry, she identified the need for a CompTIA Sec+ certification to qualify for her desired positions. With support from AAWDC, she completed her Sec+ training with Train ACE in March and successfully secured a position as a Cybersecurity Specialist with the U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency. ShaVonne started work in June at a Step 8 salary level.

Featured Highlight_____

Workforce Development Fireside Chat

As part of their Signature Breakfast Series, the BWI Business Partnership hosted a Workforce Development Fireside Chat in May. This event brought together local leaders, including AAWDC President & CEO Kirkland Murray, to discuss critical topics and innovative strategies in workforce development. Key participants included Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman, Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball, and Francine Trout, Director of the Howard County Office of Workforce Development. Kirkland Murray highlighted impactful initiatives in Anne Arundel County, such as apprenticeship, the Blueprint Career Coaching initiative, and re-entry support programs.





Skilled Trades Hiring Event

In June, AAWDC and Anne Arundel Community College's School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development co-hosted the school's second career fair at the Clauson Center for Innovation and Skilled Trades. More than 15 businesses from the skilled trades industry participated, sharing employment opportunities with the multitude of job seekers in attendance, including several graduating students.

Career Transition Program

AAWDC partnered with the Fort Meade Alliance on the Career Transition Program, which prepares transitioning military members, veterans, and spouses to enter the civilian workforce. The program culminated in the Career Transition Showcase, where participants had the opportunity to connect with local employers. The event took place in April at Live! Casino & Hotel, attracting 24 employers and 43 program applicants. Both employers and applicants rated the event highly, with several applicants receiving conditional job offers and invitations for further interviews.



Youth Apprenticeship Week 2024

In May, AAWDC celebrated the inaugural National Youth Apprenticeship Week with a series of exciting events across the county. Early in the week, AAWDC and Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Career and Technical Education Program hosted a networking event to introduce local businesses to the benefits of apprenticeship. Additionally, the Mid-Atlantic Lineman Training Center held an Open House for youth and their families to explore the grounds and learn more about what an apprenticeship entails.



Fostering Opioid Recovery Through Workforce Development Grant

May marked the conclusion of AAWDC's four-year, \$500,000 Fostering Opioid Recovery Through Workforce Development Grant, which was awarded to serve individuals affected by the opioid crisis. During this time, AAWDC achieved remarkable outcomes, with 158 participants receiving supportive services and training in healthcare, I.T., peer support, and transportation. 86 participants secured employment through grant efforts.

40th Annual NAWDP Conference

Staff from AAWDC attended the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals' 40th Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, where they had the opportunity to network and discuss new ideas and resources. Six staff members delivered insightful presentations on best practices in workforce development.

Spring Campaign: "Leap! Into Career Success"

AAWDC's Spring Campaign, "Leap! Into Career Success," ran from February 26th through April 26th and consisted of distinct outreach and events. Weekly fun facts, trivia, and "tips" were shared via social media to job seekers throughout the duration of the campaign, sparking increased engagement and interest. AAWDC also launched new workshops and events such as Industry Insiders, where employers share industry insights directly with job seekers.

Arundel Middle School Career Day

Blueprint Career Coach Renee Richardson organized a highly successful Career Day at Arundel Middle School, marking the conclusion to the first year of the Blueprint Career Coaching initiative. Professionals from over 30 businesses spoke to 8th grade students about their careers, industries, and backgrounds, offering inspiration and advice as the students prepare to transition to high school.

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