

Q³ QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

AAWDC V.P. John Zuknick with
Maryland Governor Wes Moore

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FEBRUARY 2024

MARYLAND 2.9%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 2.4%

Responding to the Key Bridge Collapse

Following the collapse of Baltimore's Key Bridge on March 26th, AAWDC swiftly mobilized to aid individuals and businesses affected by the collapse and the closure of the Port of Baltimore. In cooperation with both local and state partners, AAWDC has coordinated a range of resources and support services, including the launch of a centralized webpage for assistance (aawdc.org/portclosure), helping impacted employees apply for unemployment insurance at the Anne Arundel County Career Center, and staffing the Small Business Administration Recovery Center upon its opening in Canton. As relief efforts evolve, AAWDC remains committed to supporting all those affected.



ANNE ARUNDEL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



Jaedon Johnson-Webb was initially drawn to AAWDC due to his interest in the I.T. industry, inspired by his mother's career. As a high school senior, Jaedon completed AAWDC's CareerX program at Meade High School and interned at the Career Center under AAWDC staff. Following graduation, Jaedon participated in the FutureSuccess program and interned at AAWDC's Millersville site, continuing to hone his technical and interpersonal skills. Subsequently, he was able to complete his I.T. Fundamentals training through NextSuccess and secured a 560-hour work-and-learn internship at PEAKE, where he was then offered a full-time position as a Support Services Tech. His recent achievement of CompTIA A+ marks yet another significant milestone in his burgeoning career.

HITCH Hiring Event

As part of AAWDC's spring campaign, "Leap! Into Career Success," the Industry Solutions team hosted a successful hiring event at the Salvation Army in Annapolis focused on the key H.I.T.C.H. industries, which include Healthcare, I.T., Transportation, Construction/Skilled Trades, and Hospitality. 31 businesses and 77 job seekers were in attendance, with over 100 resumes collected on Jobs Connected, AAWDC's new hiring event online platform. The first month of the spring campaign also featured hiring events at Baltimore-Washington Medical Center, Southern High School and BWI Airport.

Featured Highlight

31
Local
Businesses

77
Job Seekers
Attended

Career Days at Old Mill Middle School North

Throughout February and March, Blueprint Career Coach La-Toya Jones facilitated a series of Career Days at Old Mill Middle School North, connecting nearly 1,000 students in 6th through 8th grade with professionals from various industries. These sessions, organized by grade level, included a special day for International Baccalaureate students in Social Studies classes. With over 40 presenters, students were exposed to a diverse range of career paths, providing insights into the options available to them in the future.

Early Childhood Education Collaboration

AAWDC held its first Early Childhood Education (ECE) Roundtable in January to address the concerns of childcare providers. Topics included CDA certification requirements, costs for background checks and fingerprinting, additional training requirements for degree holders, and employee shortages. Following the Roundtable, Denise Bordeaux, AAWDC's Director of Career Services, was appointed to the County's Early Childhood Childcare Taskforce. She engaged in individual conversations with providers about specific needs, researched options for training, and initiated dialogue with Anne Arundel County Public Schools regarding collaboration to establish a post-graduation pipeline for students.

Recreation and Parks Introduces Apprenticeship

With the help of AAWDC, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks launched its inaugural high school apprenticeship program for Childcare Aides, marking the first apprenticeship opportunity within a county agency. Developed in collaboration with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Maryland Department of Labor, the program offers students hands-on experience, mentorship, and training to begin their trajectory toward success while meeting the need for qualified professionals in this sector.

Peer Support Specialist Training

AAWDC's Re-Entry Career Navigator, Tyler Callahan, collaborated with Angel Traynor, Director of Serenity Sistas, to organize Peer Support Specialist (PSS) training. Four individuals successfully completed the course and were recognized at the monthly Recovery Anne Arundel meeting. One participant has already secured employment.

Maritime Roundtable

AAWDC's Business Solutions team partnered with the Annapolis City Office of Economic Development to convene a round table addressing challenges within Annapolis' maritime industry. Nine companies participated, identifying issues such as the shortage of new talent, limited knowledge of year-round opportunities, and difficulty with recruiting and retaining skilled professionals. AAWDC is actively boosting awareness of job opportunities through hiring events and exploring additional supportive measures.

Metrix Learning Success

AAWDC's Director of Career Services, Denise Bordeaux, was featured in a March episode of the SkillUp America podcast by Metrix Learning. In her conversation with Mike Fazio, Co-President of Workforce180 and Metrix Learning, she delved into topics like employer biases, the value of soft skills, and AAWDC's impact on businesses and job seekers.

AAWDC's investment in Metrix Learning, which offers over 7,000 self-paced lessons and trainings, has yielded remarkable engagement, with more than 100 participants completing over 500 hours of training between January and March. AAWDC is now expanding its use of Metrix Learning to assist small businesses with staff training.

Hospitality Collaborative

In February, AAWDC's Hospitality Talent Consultant, Tariq Islam, supported the Local Workforce Development Board as it reconvened the Hospitality Industry Collaborative. The Collaborative brought together 27 representatives from the local hospitality industry at Visit Annapolis and the County office. Moving forward, the group will focus on developing strategies to build their talent pipeline and address workforce challenges within the industry.

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