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QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL - JUNE 2026



Senator Cory V. McCray and student apprentice Jadon Cohen at the A4C Awards Breakfast

National Apprenticeship Week

During National Apprenticeship Week, AAWDC led and participated in several impactful events that highlighted the success and expansion of apprenticeship opportunities across the region. From attending the AACPS Student Apprenticeship Celebration to hosting the Advancing Apprenticeship in Anne Arundel County (A4C) Awards Breakfast and a Registered Apprenticeship Hiring Event, these activities brought together businesses, educators, apprentices, job seekers, and partners to celebrate achievements, recognize outstanding apprenticeship champions, and connect individuals with career pathways.

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Unemployment Rate

MAY 2026

MARYLAND 3.9%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 3.3%



ANNE ARUNDEL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Building Success

M. Denton's path into the IT industry began with a simple but critical need: an opportunity to prove herself. Like many aspiring IT professionals, Ms. Denton had the interest, motivation, and foundational skills, but needed a business willing to provide hands-on experience. With support from AAWDC, SpatialGIS utilized EARN Cyber 6.0 funding to create a Work & Learn internship for Ms. Denton. This arrangement allowed her to gain real-world IT experience while continuing to build her technical and professional skills in a supportive environment. At the conclusion of the Work & Learn contract, the CEO of SpatialGIS expressed interest in offering Ms. Denton a permanent position. Ms. Denton was hired as an IT Liaison, a role that serves as a critical bridge between technical teams and business stakeholders.



National Apprenticeship Week (continued)

To kick off National Apprenticeship Week, AAWDC hosted the Advancing Apprenticeship in Anne Arundel County (A4C) Awards Breakfast, featuring keynote speaker Senator Cory V. McCray, an inspiring reflection from student apprentice Jadon Cohen, and recognition of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM) as a featured award recipient for its outstanding leadership and commitment to apprenticeship. Over 25 businesses total were presented with awards for significant contributions to apprenticeship in the community.

During the week, AAWDC's Apprenticeship Manager also attended the AACPS Student Apprenticeship Celebration, recognizing 167 students who completed their apprenticeships, including the Maryland Student Apprentice of the Year, and connected students and families with AAWDC career services and workforce resources.

To support apprenticeship hiring, AAWDC hosted a Registered Apprenticeship Hiring Event that brought together seven employers and 115 job seekers.

Employer feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all participating businesses expressing satisfaction with the event and half indicating plans to extend offers to five or more candidates. Together, these activities increased awareness of apprenticeship as a proven workforce solution, strengthened regional partnerships, and created meaningful connections between employers and job seekers.



Notable Highlights

NAWDP Annual Conference

Several members of the AAWDC team attended the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) 2026 Annual Conference in May, where they celebrated major accomplishments and shared their expertise with other professionals from across the country. President & CEO Kirkland Murray received the prestigious Workforce Development Professional of the Year Award for “shaping strategic workforce solutions that respond to the dynamic needs of his region.” AAWDC’s Director of Apprenticeship, Business & Industry Solutions graduated from NAWDP’s inaugural Leadership Academy, earning recognition as a Certified Workforce Development Leader. In addition, AAWDC’s Disability Services Navigator presented on disability inclusion as a core workforce strategy, and the PCEO participated in a panel discussion highlighting the value of collaboration between national and state workforce associations.



Career Connections Meet & Match Career Fair

On June 11, the Brooklyn Park Community Workforce Specialist successfully hosted the Career Connections Meet & Match Career Fair, bringing together 106 job seekers, eight businesses, and three community resource partners. A featured speed-interviewing session gave participants direct access to employers while helping them build confidence and strengthen their interview skills. Businesses reported meeting multiple qualified candidates, with some extending job offers on the spot, while attendees praised the variety of employment opportunities available. The event’s success was made possible through the seamless collaboration between AAWDC and Anne Arundel County Public Library.



Career Foundations Workshop Series

In April, Career and Community Services launched a six-month Career Foundations Series designed to help participants build confidence, strengthen career readiness, and prepare for long-term employment success. During the first half of the series, participants explored topics including Strengths & Career Pathways, Personal Branding & Professional Identity, Job Search Essentials, Workplace Communication & Professional Skills, and Workplace Expectations & Professional Etiquette. Offered in a hybrid format, the series allows participants to attend either in person or virtually. More than 60 attendees were recorded during the first six sessions.

Central Middle School Career and College Fair

Central Middle School hosted its 3rd Annual Career and College Fair, engaging 1,177 students in meaningful career exploration experiences. More than 100 volunteer professionals representing diverse industries and post-secondary pathways participated, providing students with firsthand insights into career opportunities, workforce expectations, educational requirements, and personal career journeys. Through direct interaction with industry professionals, students were able to explore interests, ask informed questions, and gain a deeper understanding of potential career pathways.

Lindale Middle School Healthcare Field Trip

In May, eighth-grade students from Lindale Middle School interested in healthcare careers participated in a career exploration field trip to the James and Sylvia Earl SAIL Center. Through hands-on engagement with advanced medical simulators that replicate real-world healthcare scenarios, students gained firsthand exposure to patient care practices, clinical decision-making, and the use of innovative medical technology.

Chesapeake Regional Workforce Summit



Hosted in partnership with various local and state organizations, the 2026 Chesapeake Regional Workforce Summit and Career Fair connected industry leaders, educators, workforce professionals, and regional businesses to explore workforce trends, work-based learning, and apprenticeship strategies. AAWDC's President & CEO and Apprenticeship Manager participated as panelists, highlighting workforce development initiatives and the value of apprenticeship as a scalable workforce solution. The Career Fair and Open House connected 17 businesses with 175 job seekers while showcasing hands-on training opportunities through the Center for Applied Technology.

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