

A newsletter from the
Northern Tier
Youth Committee
on behalf of the
Northern Tier Workforce
Development Board

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**NORTHERN TIER
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

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Workforce Program Manager
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Cole Fowler, a 10th grade student at Towanda Area High School, is pictured above (fourth from the left) with his co-workers and friends at Endless Supply Co., Wysox, PA, and his Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Kelly Silver (first on left).

Success Story: Cole Fowler

Kelly Silver, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Counselor, has been working with Cole Fowler (age 18) for about two years. Cole is a sophomore at Towanda High School. He loves people and animals. Kelly reached out to Endless Supply Company in Wysox, PA, to arrange an on-the-job training position for Cole where he could learn work readiness skills in a friendly, welcoming learning environment. Cole's friends at Endless Supply Company enjoy having him as a co-worker. His boss and store owner, Melissa Vanderpool, says that they all love Cole. His responsibilities at the store include tasks such as stocking shelves and walking dogs. She says that she feels he enjoys the work because it gives him a sense of accomplishment. Melissa says that Cole has had to overcome some barriers to get where he is and that she feels working at the store has helped him. She adds that she will definitely continue working with OVR on more placements like this one.

As an OVR Counselor, Kelly says that she works with approximately 200 people in the Northern Tier

region, though she does not cover the entire area. The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR offers diagnostic services, counseling, restoration, and vocational training and employment for eligible individuals. Statewide there are 21 District Offices staffed with trained, professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors who serve Pennsylvania in all 67 counties. Services offered through OVR are designed to increase an individual's independence and employability. For more information about OVR services, go to www.dli.pa.gov or call 570-265-1518.

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“The expert in anything was once a beginner.”

Helen Hayes

Red Rock Student Becomes the Teacher

Two years before being employed by Red Rock Job Corps Center, CPP 1 Advisor Jordan Quarles was living on her own, working two jobs, and still not making ends meet. Fortunately, the decision to attend Job Corps was a life-changing experience—a message she now passes on to the Center’s newest students. “I emphasize that they need to stay focused and remember what they came here for. I let them know that if they’re willing to work hard they will be successful too.”

That’s what Miss Jordan remembers hearing from her former resident advisor Michelle Runkle and other staff who helped her successfully complete the Hotel and Lodging vocations program.

Jordan Quarles, CPP 1 Advisor and Red Rock graduate, with some of her students.

Front row, Anthony Moore; second row, George Holmes (left) and Leroy Goodlett; back row, Jamarie Gumbs



While at Red Rock, she also obtained her driver’s license. However, the first few weeks at Red Rock were an adjustment period for Miss Jordan, as they are for many students. She recalls, “Having to suddenly follow all of these rules was new to me because I had been living on my own for quite a while. Also, living with a bunch of females I didn’t know—and everyone being from different backgrounds—was hard

at first, but I got used to it.”

Miss Jordan heard about Job Corps and its opportunities from relatives and other people in her neighborhood. She states that, “I was working at Macy’s in Langhorne [PA], and also as a front desk representative at Home-wood Suites. It still wasn’t enough to support myself. I thought that it would work out, but it just didn’t. So I decided to try Job Corps.”

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Bradford County Action Success Story – Rachael Stafford

Rachael Stafford is a participant in the Bradford County Action WIOA Young Adult Program. She came into the program with a high school diploma but had limited employability skills. Rachael was employed part-time at a local Subway restaurant but knew she wanted more for her life. Rachel is expecting her first child in February 2017. She realized that in order to adequately provide for her child, she needed to pursue training that could lead to a good

career and security for her and her family. She developed a plan with her Career Advisor and decided that phlebotomy was the career path for her. Rachael began classes at Lackawanna College in Towanda in August 2016. She refers to her soon-to-be-born baby boy as her motivation for trying to be the best that she can be. Rachael studied hard and achieved good grades in the phlebotomy program. She acknowledges that balancing

school, part-time employment, and pregnancy was very stressful at times but she persevered and her last day of class was December 13, 2016. She completed the training and is now a certified Phlebotomy Technician, making her future much brighter.

For more information on the services offered at Bradford County Action, Inc., please see the service provider information on page four.

Trehab, Inc. Success Stories – Lainie, Gabe

Lainie had no experience or work-ready skills. She contacted Trehab, Inc., for tutoring so she could pursue her GED and find a job. She was assigned a Career Advisor and they established a plan to help Lainie reach her goals. She began attending tutoring and then her Career Advisor facilitated a paid work experience for her during Summer 2016. Through the paid work experience, Lainie learned soft skills, computer skills, and customer service. Lainie's self-esteem improved because of her accomplishments and this helped her to secure a job with one of the largest employers in Susquehanna County. Lainie attended a hiring event hosted at the Trehab Workforce office and her prospective employer said she "saw

something in Lainie she really liked and wanted to find out more about her capabilities." Lainie is now working full-time at her new position while she continues to work toward attaining her GED.

Gabe enrolled in the Young Adult Program at Trehab, Inc., in Wyoming County in September 2016. His goals included obtaining his GED, working on job readiness skills, fulfilling his probation requirements, and working toward a career in Culinary Arts. While working in the program, he obtained a Serve Safe credential in an effort to build his resume and improve opportunities in the food industry, which his Career Advisor suggested to align him with future goals. Gabe has had a good work ethic since starting his

journey at Trehab, Inc. The collaboration between his Career Advisor, Probation Officer, and Gabe has been instrumental in his development. He intends to enroll in Keystone Job Corps in Drums, PA, for Culinary Arts after he obtains his GED. He passed the math section in January 2017 and is ready to tackle the next part of the test soon.

Trehab's Young Adult Program services are individualized for any young adult meeting eligibility requirements. Career Advisors work closely with all customers to assess barriers and devise individual plans for everyone to achieve their career goals. For more information see service provider contact information on page 4.

"The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power."

Mary Pickford

Career Day Scheduled at Towanda High School

A Career Day is scheduled for March 17, 2017, at Towanda High School. The fair will draw students from several local schools to talk with area employers about career opportunities and to better understand the training needed to obtain these jobs.

Along with information on these careers and businesses, participating schools will be given information about High Priority Occupations, top employers in Bradford County, and Career Clusters to share with their students. The event is part of NTRPDC's Business Education Partnership (BEP), a grant the agency received from the Appalachian Regional Commission to connect students with area businesses and industry. The BEP Career Coaches and NTRPDC's Youth Program Manager are planning and organizing the Career Day in Towanda.

The BEP Grant has allowed NTRPDC to plan and assist with multiple career fairs in counties across the Northern Tier, enabling students to learn about opportunities available to them in the region.

Employers are invited to exhibit at this career fair and have the opportunity to discuss career opportunities with students. Please contact Jody McCarty, NTRPDC Workforce Development Program Manager, at 570-265-1516 or mccarty@northerntier.org for more information or to exhibit at the Career Fair.

In case of a school snow day on March 17, the Career Day will be postponed to March 24.

Red Rock (continued from page 2)

For more information about Red Rock Job Corps Center, call 570-477-0265 or visit www.jobcorps.gov.

**Northern Tier Workforce Development Board
Youth Service Providers
PA CareerLink® and Affiliate Sites**

Bradford County
Bradford County Action
500 William Street
Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-4434
nhever@bradfordcountyaction.org

Sullivan County
Trehab, Inc.
210 Center Street
Dushore, PA 18614
570-928-2126
kremington@trehab.org

Susquehanna County
Trehab, Inc.
1302 Main Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
570-853-1106
nfowler@trehab.org

Tioga County
Trehab, Inc.
14 South Main Street,
Suite 202
Mansfield, PA 16933
570-662-8113
nharer@trehab.org

Wyoming County
Trehab, Inc.
1 Kim Avenue, Suite 10
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
570-996-2448
kremington@trehab.org

Miss Jordan said that she's always liked people so the Hotel and Lodging trade was definitely for her. Once acclimated to Center life, it didn't take her too long to finish the program. Also, she watched how well Miss Michelle interacted with students, and how much she enjoyed her job. "I saw how much she really cared and she inspired me to do the same. That's why I decided to attend advanced training for the Human Service Worker vocation to hopefully work in Job Corps as well."

Miss Jordan was accepted into the HSW AT program at Kittrell Job Corps Center in Kittrell, N.C. Although it's what she wanted, it was more difficult than she anticipated.

"Kittrell was much farther away, and I couldn't go home when I wanted. The rooms were different too and I had to get used to it all over again. I wanted to go back to Red Rock."

Returning to Red Rock was exactly what she did—this time as a Resident Advisor (RA) intern, and eventually as a full-time paid RA.

"After becoming employed at Red Rock, I was finally able to live on my own, buy a car, and become independent. Also, I was happy to work with the students. I could relate to their situations maybe a little better than other staff who had never been Job Corps students. I had been

through some of the same home-sickness and personal issues," she explained.

After working as an RA for several months, an opportunity arose for her to become the Career Preparation 1 Advisor, taking on the responsibility of the first-week students. "I felt accomplished, and I was ready for the challenge. I really enjoy working with the students, and enjoy seeing their growth and progress as they continue through the program. "I care about the students, and I want to tell them my story. I also want to give back to the Center where the staff helped me so much."

Northern Tier Youth Committee

Mission

A system that provides all youth and young adults with the skills and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, encourages life-long learning, and ensures the region a skilled workforce.

As a subcommittee of the Northern Tier Workforce Development Board, the Youth Committee is comprised of members with a special interest or expertise in youth policy. The Youth Committee is responsible for:

- Recommending eligible providers of youth/young adult activities to the Workforce Development Board to be awarded grants or contracts on a competitive basis;
- Providing oversight to the eligible providers of young adult services in the Northern Tier;
- Coordinating activities and leveraging resources to effectively serve the young adult residents of the region;
- Developing portions of the local plan related to eligible participants, as determined by the Workforce Development Board;
- Coordinating activities in the Northern Tier; and
- Performing other duties determined to be appropriate by the Workforce Development Board.

Members

Chair: Jackie Johnson
Krista Davidson
Alice Davis, Ph.D.
Annette Donovan
Charity Field
Tara LaFrance
Kim Mapes
Lori Rahn
Kelly Silver
Gary Martell
Phil Smiley
Theresa Steele
Penne Watkins
Debra Wivell

The Northern Tier Youth Committee meets quarterly at the PA CareerLink® offices, 312 Main Street, Suite 1, Towanda.