

# LAUNCH!

YOUR SUCCESS

Serving the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania

## Wyoming County LAUNCH! Success Story

The Wyoming County “LAUNCH!” program welcomed Billy as part of this year’s program after connecting with Trehab’s HiSET High School Certification Program. Billy expressed an interest in working outdoors, which led Trehab, Inc., staff to introduce him to one of its partnering employers, Cozy Creek Family Campground. Billy made a great first impression and was invited to complete a work experience with the campground.

School has been a struggle for Billy. However, this summer during his work experience, he has proved to be very motivated to work and able to maintain his own budget with his summer earnings. Billy received great feedback from the owner/supervisor of the campground. They reported that he always arrived early and was very easy to work with. He exhibited qualities including following directives well, taking initiative, working well with others, and needing minimal supervision to be productive.

Billy will continue to be a part of the workforce program so that we can continue to assist him with tutoring services and an opportunity to connect with other local employers in an effort to continue to build his resume. Billy has been very cooperative and appreciative of the opportunity to be in the program and get a solid start in school this year, as he is hoping to study a trade upon his graduation.



**“We are thrilled to have Billy on board this year. He has been tremendous help around the campground. He is a fast learner and by far one of the hardest workers we have had so far. I am confident that he will excel in life in any future endeavors and we would definitely be open to having him return again next year.”**

**~Lisa Zawadzki, Owner, Cozy Creek Family Campground**

# Seniors 2 Seniors Computer Classes Offered in Tioga County

The Seniors 2 Seniors (S2S) program is designed to offer basic computer classes to senior citizens. The class is instructor-led and covers topics such as understanding devices, e-mail, navigating the Internet, and cybersecurity. As part of the program local high school students volunteer to provide support to the senior citizens during class, helping them to develop technology skills.

The program originated in 2019 as the result of a partnership among Tri-Co Connections, the Potter County Education Council, the Area Agency on Aging, and Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center to help bridge the digital and generational divide. Older adults make up a predominant

demographic in rural Northern Pennsylvania. One of the most significant needs of senior citizens is the ability to utilize technology, which became especially important during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilization of technology has been proven to lower health care costs, enhance quality of life, and allow older adults to live independently for a longer period.

Tri-Co Connections and the Area Agency on Aging partnered with NTRPDC to bring the program to

Tioga County. NTRPDC secured funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry through a digital literacy grant to support the roll-out of the program locally. To date, classes have taken place in Mansfield and Wellsboro. A third class is scheduled to start in early October in the town of Tioga with student volunteers from Williamson High School. The aim is to expand this project into NTRPDC's other four counties.



For more information, contact Melissa Fleming at [fleming@northerntier.org](mailto:fleming@northerntier.org)

## Coterra Provides CDL Scholarships

The shortage of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) drivers was an issue before COVID-19, and since the pandemic the need for truck drivers has become urgent. Coterra (formerly known as Cabot Oil and Gas) experiences this need firsthand, along with many of its subcontractors and other local business owners.

To help address the need, Coterra partnered with Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center (SCCTC) to offer scholarships to current high school seniors who want to pursue a CDL license upon graduation. Since its inception, the program has assisted 15 students in completing the CDL training program at SCCTC and obtaining a CDL.

Coterra has allocated \$100,000 for scholarships for the upcoming school year. High school seniors who are interested in training for a CDL after graduating in 2023 may contact Tammi Mowry, SCCTC Financial Aid Director/Adult Education Coordinator, at 570-278-9229, ext. 6671, or [tammi.mowry@scctc-school.org](mailto:tammi.mowry@scctc-school.org) to discuss tuition assistance.



# Sullivan County LAUNCH! Success Story

Jordan first enrolled in the "LAUNCH!" program in 2020 and dreamed of completing a paid work experience at the Sullivan County Library. However, COVID-19 restrictions kept her from that dream in 2020 and again in 2021. Therefore, Jordan was steered into completing a work experience at an alternative location. Jordan continued to be patient and reenrolled in the LAUNCH! Summer Youth Employment Program this year.

Finally, in 2022, Jordan was able to complete a five-week paid work experience at the Sullivan County Library. Jordan learned the ropes of being a librarian and helped with the Summer Reading Program. Children from the Summer Reading Program gathered weekly at the

library to hear a story, complete a craft project related to the story, and take local field trips. Jordan was able to participate in the trips and help supervise the children. The group visited Worlds End State Park, Eagles Mere Conservancy, Lake Mokoma, and the Hiawatha Paddlewheel Riverboat in Williamsport. The Sullivan County Library Children's Librarian said, "Jordan was a great asset to our Summer Reading Program. She helped create and present activities each week. She worked well with the children and was always ready to lend a hand."

Jordan also learned about cataloging and keeping track of library materials, assisting patrons, and planning for library events. Jordan plans to pursue her goal of

becoming a librarian after graduating from high school. Jordan said, "Completing the paid work experience at the library helped me confirm that I love the library system."

Sullivan County Trehab staff wish Jordan continued success as she begins college tours this fall!



"What's So Cool about Manufacturing?" (WSCM) is a program that has been established for more than 10 years across the Commonwealth. The program gives students an opportunity to learn about manufacturing jobs firsthand, and enables manufacturers to become more involved in shaping the future workforce's perception of manufacturing.

NTRPDC partners each participating school with a local manufacturer. The school's team of select 7th and/or 8th-grade students, along with a teacher coach, visits the manufacturing location to tour the facilities, learn about their processes, conduct interviews, and record footage. After the tour, each school works with a professional video editor for guidance, and the school team edits their footage down to 2½-minute videos. The videos are then submitted to the WSCM website where the public votes for their favorite videos.

In Spring 2023, NTRPDC will host a viewing party/awards ceremony for the schools and distribute awards

to the participants. The manufacturers are also invited to attend the awards event and are encouraged to bring promotional items to share with students and guests.

To date, six schools have confirmed their place in the 2022-23 competition for the Northern Tier regional competition, with more expected to confirm their participation soon. The hope is that all of the schools in the region will see the value in connecting students to employers in meaningful ways.

If your school is interested in participating in this program, please contact Rachel Selleck at [selleck@northerntier.org](mailto:selleck@northerntier.org).

# September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month

It can be difficult to know how to speak with people in our lives about suicide, but research overwhelmingly shows that doing so reduces the stigma of suicide and can open doors to treatment and resources. Experiencing struggles or “bad days” is normal. Feeling so sad that you are hopeless or helpless is not. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you call 988, you’ll hear an automated message featuring additional options while your call is routed to your local Lifeline network crisis center. A trained crisis worker at your local center will answer the phone. This person will listen to you, understand how your problem is affecting you, provide support, and get you the help you need.

The [988Lifeline website](#) has specific resources for various populations, including youth, veterans, Spanish-speaking people, people of color, people with disabilities, those struggling with grief and loss, and many more.

Click the graphic below to find out more.

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](#). There is help.



# Susquehanna County LAUNCH! Success Story

For the past two summers, Lexi was enrolled in the "LAUNCH!" program and worked as a workforce development intern. She worked closely with the Susquehanna County LAUNCH! career advisor and helped establish, organize, and oversee all aspects of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

While enrolled in the LAUNCH! program, participants have the opportunity to complete 30 hours of academic enrichment activities, qualifying them to receive a stipend. As a second-year intern, Lexi had already completed all of the online academic enrichment activities available. To fulfill the 30-hour requirement, Lexi utilized

her creativity to complete her academic enrichment hours. She organized and taught a Dress for a Mess: Paint Party at the Trehab Community Resource Center of Susquehanna County, where she led participants with step-by-step instructions for completing a painting.

As a community service project, Lexi built and painted (with the LAUNCH! logo) cornhole boards (for a beanbag toss) to be used at the LAUNCH! Party in the Park outreach event. Lexi led fellow LAUNCH! participants in planning the LAUNCH! Party in the Park event and was an integral part of its success.



Here is what Lexi had to say about her experience in the LAUNCH! program over the last two years:

**What have your experiences in the program been like?**

All of my experiences with the program have been positive. I truly have learned so much not just career-wise, but personally about myself and I can't thank my Career Advisor and Supervisor enough for that.

**How has the opportunity shaped your career or personal goals?**

Initially, I wanted to go into Marketing when I finished college. Now I think I want to go into Community Relations or Event Management. I think this opportunity has made me realize how much I love being around the general public, helping the

youth population, giving back, and hosting community events.

**What was the most important thing you learned from this internship experience?**

I think that I learned how to be more compassionate. Sometimes I think we take for granted how easy some of our lives are or how small our problems really are, compared to others.

**What has been the most challenging part of your experience as an intern?**

The most challenging part of my experience as an intern is connecting on different levels with the youth clients and wanting to see them succeed and help them along

the way, and then having to leave them.

**What has been your favorite part of your experience?**

My favorite part as an intern was feeling like I was making a difference in the lives of the young adults.

**Do you have any advice for future interns?**

Don't be afraid to open up to the people who are willing to help you.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share or say about your experience?**

Just that I cannot recommend this program enough. It has truly helped me grow as an individual and I have learned so much.



# BEP Connects Local Employers with Schools

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission's (NTRPDC) Business Education Partnership (BEP) kicked off its eighth year at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. NTRPDC's BEP program employs career coaches to assist school districts with career education in the five-county region. The goal of the BEP is to increase career education and exploration events to students in K-12 in an effort to improve students' career awareness, soft skills, and

workplace knowledge. The BEP works to connect students to employers and career opportunities available within the region. This is accomplished by creating events such as career fairs, mock interview days, field trips, etc., where students get to learn about businesses and occupations through firsthand experiences.

Career coaches work closely with the guidance departments in each school to plan career education events. These events are made

possible through the participation of local employers. Numerous local employers see value in connecting with high school students and helping schools prepare students for the world of work. These employers volunteer to sit on school advisory boards, establish work experience opportunities, participate in educational panels, and many other activities in an effort to educate students about careers and pathways to them.

If you are a business or community partner who would like to connect with your local school district, below is a list of the career coaches and the schools that they cover:

Career Coach	Schools Served
Pat Chappell <a href="mailto:chappell@northerntier.org">chappell@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southern Tioga School District</li><li>• Troy Area School District</li><li>• Wellsboro Area School District</li></ul>
Lyndsay Coleman <a href="mailto:coleman@northerntier.org">coleman@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Athens School District</li></ul>
Barb Knapp <a href="mailto:knapp@northerntier.org">knapp@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canton Area School District</li><li>• Northeast Bradford School District</li><li>• Sullivan County School District</li><li>• Tunkhannock Area School District</li></ul>
Karen Long <a href="mailto:long@northerntier.org">long@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Montrose Area School District</li><li>• Sayre Area School District</li><li>• Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center</li></ul>
Samantha Shurtleff <a href="mailto:shurtleff@northerntier.org">shurtleff@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wyalusing Area School District</li></ul>
Donna Yale <a href="mailto:yale@northerntier.org">yale@northerntier.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Towanda Area School District</li></ul>

# Bradford County LAUNCH! Success Story



Erica participated in Bradford County Action's Summer Work Program as an intern at Towanda Borough. Erica worked full time at the Borough for two months during Summer 2022. Her duties included clerical work, sorting office files, recording Borough Council meeting

minutes, and related community involvement. Erica also worked on compiling a guide for visitors to Bradford County Veteran's Memorial Park, to assist in locating specific names of honored service personnel.

While interning at Towanda Borough, Erica was able to participate in the implementation of a new Borough parking payment process, the "ParkMobile" application. During a Borough Council meeting, Erica was asked to speak to the council regarding details of the new contactless parking payment process.

Erica also assisted in the community as part of her internship duties, including planting trees in the borough, touring the Towanda

Wastewater Treatment Facility, attending Borough Council meetings, and working at the Veteran's Memorial Park site.

Erica and her supervisors all said that her time at the Borough this summer was a great experience! Borough employees stated they enjoyed having her as part of their team and that she was a diligent and positive intern! Erica definitely got to experience the many aspects of what Towanda Borough employees do for the Borough and the community.

Following completion of her successful internship with Towanda Borough, Erica headed back to school at Ursinus College where she majors in biochemistry and molecular biology.



## 'Develop Tioga' and its Partners Plan Manufacturing Day and Health and Human Services Day

Develop Tioga, along with NTRPDC and other partners, is planning a Manufacturing Day and Health and Human Services Day for high school students in Bradford and Tioga counties. Both events will be held at Wellsboro High School. Manufacturing Day is planned for October 7, 2022, and Health and Human Services Day is planned for November 3, 2022.

These events will give students a personal, firsthand introduction to the manufacturing, healthcare, and

human services fields. Students will be given the opportunity to hear from panelists from different occupations within the industries. Occupations presented during the panels are specifically chosen to give students a well-rounded awareness of the various career choices and pathways within each industry.

After the panel discussion concludes, students are encouraged to freely interact with multiple businesses and employers, asking

their own follow-up questions to panelists or other participating employers. Businesses are encouraged to bring hands-on activities or interactive displays to get students more involved.

If you are an employer or business who would like to participate in either of these events, please contact Kristin Hamilton at [khamilton@developstioga.org](mailto:khamilton@developstioga.org) or Jody McCarty at [mccarty@northerntier.org](mailto:mccarty@northerntier.org).



# Tioga County LAUNCH! Success Stories

“LAUNCH! Tioga County” had amazing participants this year for its summer program. Each one excelled and thrived beyond expectations. Two exceptional participants were Hannah and Sara.

## Hannah – 3B Kidz Daycare

Hannah demonstrated interest, focus, care, kindness, and a genuine drive as she participated the LAUNCH! Summer Youth Employment Program. Hannah was able to obtain a summer position as a daycare attendant at 3B Kidz Daycare via a paid work experience through Tioga County’s LAUNCH! Program. Hannah was able to gain useful career skills and showcase her abilities as a caretaker of children. 3B Kids, LLC, is a new business in the Liberty area. Hannah proved to be a major asset and an essential member of the team during her time there.

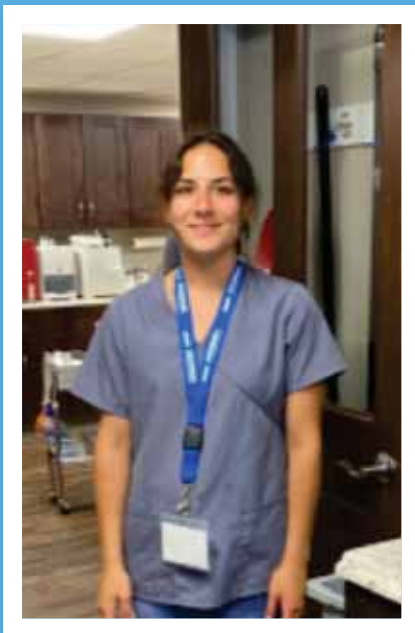
Lindsey Zay, Owner of 3B Kidz, LLC, said, “Hannah’s drive and commitment not only for the kids but for the business as a whole has been above and beyond expectations. She always shows up for success with a smile and is reliable. Her willingness to step up to challenges is one of her greatest strengths. Hannah will be a great candidate for any opportunities that come her way. We wish her well in her future endeavors.”

Hannah is currently pursuing a Nursing degree at Mansfield University. Given the ambition she exhibited within the summer



program, we know she will go on to do amazing things in her career.

## Sara – Grand Canyon Veterinary Hospital



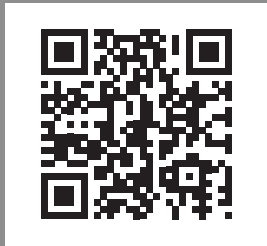
Sara was another notable placement in Tioga County, who also participated in the LAUNCH! Summer Youth Employment Program. “After learning about Sara during her interview for the program and getting clear insight into her goals and aspirations as a high school graduate, I knew she would be the perfect intern for one of Tioga County’s veterinary hospitals,” said Jaleesa Jones, LAUNCH! Career Advisor in Wellsboro, PA. Jaleesa reached out to Grand Canyon Veterinary Hospital, inquired about them hosting a summer intern through

LAUNCH!, and was able to secure Sara a position as a Veterinary Technician Assistant.

Sara immediately adapted to her new position, gaining tremendous knowledge in caring for animals. Sara was so intrigued with her internship that she plans to obtain a Veterinary Technician certification after completing her studies at Susquehanna University for Microbiology. Sara did so well within her placement that Grand Canyon Veterinary Hospital offered her a part-time position. She continues to work there when home in Wellsboro on college breaks.



# Northern Tier Workforce Development Board LAUNCH! Your Success Service Providers



PA CareerLink® and Affiliate Sites

[www.launchyoursuccessnt.org](http://www.launchyoursuccessnt.org)

## Bradford County

Bradford County Action  
500 William Street  
Towanda, PA 18848  
570-265-4434

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711

[kjohnson@bradfordcountyaction.org](mailto:kjohnson@bradfordcountyaction.org)

## Susquehanna County

Trehab, Inc.  
1302 Main Street  
Susquehanna, PA 18847  
570-853-1103

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
or

14 Public Avenue  
Montrose, PA  
570-278-5201

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[bmiller@trehab.org](mailto:bmiller@trehab.org)

## Tioga County

Trehab, Inc.  
42 Plaza Lane  
Wellsboro, PA 16901  
570-662-1307  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[jjones@trehab.org](mailto:jjones@trehab.org)



## Sullivan County

Trehab, Inc.  
210 Center Street  
Dushore, PA 18614  
570-928-2127  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[theess@trehab.org](mailto:theess@trehab.org)

## Wyoming County

Trehab, Inc.  
1 Kim Avenue, Suite 10  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
570-996-2438  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[pshoemaker@trehab.org](mailto:pshoemaker@trehab.org)

Start your LAUNCH! adventure today—  
call or e-mail the service provider for the  
county where you live.

# 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.

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

## Membership

Kelly White, Chair  
Center Director  
Lackawanna College, Towanda  
Center

Krista Abresch  
Intellectual Disabilities  
Quality Manager  
Bradford County Human Services

Jennifer Farley  
Administrator of Educational  
Services  
Northern Tier Career Center

John Gazzillo  
Executive Director  
Susquehanna County Career &  
Technology Center

Jackie Johnson  
Community Member

Gary Martell  
Director  
Northern Tier Career Center

Monica McCarty  
School Outreach Specialist  
BLaST IU17-Williamsport

Jill Payne  
WIOA Manager  
Adams & Associates/  
Red Rock Job Corps

Randi Morse  
District Executive Director  
RVR YMCA

Lori Rahn  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
Bradford County

Breanna Repard  
Workforce Development Director  
The Trehab Center

Theresa Steele  
Parent of Youth Participant

Penne Watkins  
Executive Director  
Bradford County Action

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Bonnie Warner, Equal Opportunity Officer

[eoofficer@northerntier.org](mailto:eoofficer@northerntier.org)

570-265-9103 or toll-free 888-868-8800 / TDD/TTY PA Relay 711

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission

312 Main Street

Towanda, PA 18848

