



WORKFORCE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER June 2020

Message from the One-Stop-Operator:

Take time to reflect on the following quote by Ruth Ahmed: “The alternatives in my life went through my mind. Unemployed, alone, despairing, watching daytime TV. That couldn’t end well.

Or helping people, like genuinely making a difference. Imagine waking up and doing that every day?”

Can you imagine what some of those less fortunate think about daily? Now visualize the reactions to those served at the PA CareerLink® and the positive impact your efforts are doing for individuals who are facing difficult times. Always keep in mind that you could be someone’s last hope in finding a new path for them to venture and succeed. Thank you for making your imagination become a reality by having the dedication and desire to serve our customers. What a great way to start your day, every day!

One-Stop-Operator, PA CareerLink®, Northwest Workforce Area

Benjamin Wilson



Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Directory of Resources and Services

**A comprehensive listing of services and resources
for Pennsylvanians who are deaf or hard of hearing**

- Directory is for individuals and organizations to find services and resources
- The directory is searchable by more than 25 categories
- Routinely, new organizations are being added
- Maintained by the Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Questions:

odhh@pa.gov

800-323-3008 v/tty

717-783-4912 v/tty

717-831-1928 videophone

Search the directory at **www.dli.state.pa.us/odhh**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

ELIZABETH WILSON

SUPERVISOR

NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY INTERMEDIATE IU5

Elizabeth Wilson, Supervisor of Adult Education at Northwest Tri-County IU5, oversees the program providing Adult Education and Career Readiness Skills to all six counties in the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Area. She supervises three full time coordinators as well as almost 35 part time instructors and transition specialists. The Adult Education program provides basic skills instruction for both PA CareerLink participants and the general public, high school equivalency preparation, English as a Second Language classes, and career pathways development and support for transition to employment and/or training. Mrs. Wilson has worked with IU5's Adult Education for over 6 years, starting first as a part time instructor, moving up to a Coordinator of Adult Education, and most recently Supervisor of Adult Education. She has been a vital part of the growth of the program, now the only Pennsylvania Department of Education Title II funded program in our area. Mrs. Wilson currently serves as the Title II representative on the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board, and participated in the Lean Study with PA CareerLink staff in 2019. Mrs. Wilson continues to facilitate the partnership between IU5 and the PA CareerLink which holds great value for both organizations.



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Don't forget to nominate someone you believe should be recognized for Employee of the Month. Nominations should be sent to jean.blaine@nwpacareerlink.org no later than the 21st of each month.

SAFETY MEASURES

As you enter the NWPA CareerLink® locations in either Erie or Oil City signs are posted throughout the facility to remind everyone to maintain a safe distance from one another, follow the marked traffic patterns, promote the use of hand sanitizer, as well as the importance in washing your hands on a regular basis. There are also limitations to the number of individuals permitted in certain areas. Additionally, while in the green phase, staff and customers are still required to wear a mask while in the NWPA CareerLink® facilities. Remember these measures are taken to protect both you and the customers we serve. A Pandemic Safety Officer is on-site to ensure all NWPA CareerLink® staff and customers are in complying with the CDC and Department of Health guidelines.

VALUABLE INFORMATION

This newsletter contains information pertaining to services offered by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) with the Department of Labor and Industry and the Business Solutions Team with NWPA CareerLink®. Please refer to pages 2 and 6 respectively.

NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (IU5) UPDATE

IU5 Adult Education classes are continuing virtually and we are able to accept new students! New students can register by clicking on our “Live Chat” option on our website www.iu5.org or by calling Jamie at 814-282-7940. Students with questions about GED testing should contact their local GED testing site; further information can be found at www.ged.com.

LEAN

A team of individuals has been selected to serve on the LEAN committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from the NWPA Workforce Region to include the following: Brenda Connelly, Kathryn Thompson, Molly Hayden, Carole Krouse, Deb O’Neil, Amanda Kimmy, Heather Friedline, Alex Crouch, Patti Boleratz, Clifton McNair, and Jean Blaine. These individuals are tasked with making sound suggestions and recommendations for PA CareerLink® to continuously improve its processes and move in a direction that benefits the customers.





BRENDA RAYE
LEAD — TALENT
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



Ms. Brenda Raye began her career as a Talent Development Specialist with Title I during the fall of 2019. This past winter, she was reassigned to the position of Lead Talent Development Specialist. She received nominations for this award from her co-workers who indicated that Ms. Raye continuously puts forth 100% while performing her duties.

During the onset of her employment as a Talent Development Specialist, she volunteered to take on tasks that promoted the improvement of Title I services offered. Her keen ability to learn new processes and find ways to work smarter and not harder in an expeditious manner is recognized by her co-workers and managers.

A federally funded grant was awarded to the NWPA CareerLink® Workforce Region that supported training and education for dislocated workers. Ms. Raye did not falter in finding participants on her caseload who met the criteria for the grant. Additionally, she did not hesitate to help other staff with processing candidates covered by the grant. Her efforts had a huge impact on the lives of many individuals who successfully completed their training and are now employed. She also took on the task to track participants under the grant to ensure information was readily available for those who need it.

Ms. Raye is enthusiastic, out-going, and knows how to put a smile on everyone's face through banter and her quick wit. Her passion to make a participant's life better has not gone unnoticed by the other NWPA CareerLink® staff in Erie. She is knowledgeable in the areas of community resources, WIOA policies and procedures, in addition to the computer data-based tools utilized for her job. Unafraid to say "I don't know, but I will find out for you" speaks volumes in her confidence level as she deals with both participants as well as the staff she leads.

A great leader, a superb human being, thank you Brenda Raye for all that you do! Congratulations!



You have the work - we have the talented workforce you need.

We have more than 50 offices statewide - each one an organization of public & private entities leveraging their resources to provide workforce development services. Because most services are federally funded, we can provide them AT NO COST to the businesses and individuals we serve.

PA CareerLink® Business Services Team can help you reduce your recruitment, hiring, and training costs.



Data

Accessing the latest relevant labor market data



Development

Working with local economic development groups



Collaboration

Making connections with local industry sector partnerships

Our PA CareerLink® Business Service Team provides:

- single-point of contact with a knowledgeable staff person
- one-stop service delivery of workforce information, programs, and data
- customization of services and programs

Consider a partnership with the local PA CareerLink® office to plan for your workforce needs throughout the business cycle.