

Youth Resource Connections

NEWSLETTER

Youth Resource Connections

is a monthly newsletter that provides information, resources, and tools to workforce professionals who work every day to impact the lives of youth and young adults.

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Headlines

DOL Announces National Apprenticeship Week. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Administration will host National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) April 26 - May 2. This nationwide celebration will feature ApprenticeshipUSA partners - employers, apprentices and graduates, industry representatives, labor organizations, community-based organizations, workforce partners, educational institutions, and federal, state, and local government agencies and more. For more information, click [here](#).

DOL Launches 'Make America AI-Ready' Initiative. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the launch of "Make America AI-Ready," a free artificial intelligence literacy course that will help American workers learn the basics of AI simply by texting "READY" to 20202. The initiative advances the Trump Administration's commitment to equip American workers with foundational AI skills needed to succeed in an AI-driven economy, as outlined in [America's Talent Strategy](#) and the White House's [AI Action Plan](#). Click here to view the [press release](#).

Looking for more information and resources to support your youth program?



Visit the [Youth Connections Community of Practice](#) for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

Headlines

(continued)

ETA Issues TEGL 07-25 – U.S. Department of Labor’s Artificial Intelligence Literacy Framework.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 07-25. This notice issues the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL or Department) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy Framework as a resource for program design and encourage expanded AI literacy training across the public workforce and education systems. To read the TEN, [click here](#).

ETA Issues TEN 08-25 – Supporting a Unified Talent Development System. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has published Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 08-25. This notice disseminates the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Career Technical and Adult Education’s Program Memorandum 26-3 to the public workforce system. Memorandum 26-3 outlines practical strategies for states to support a unified talent development system that seamlessly connects secondary education, postsecondary education, workforce training, and employment, by aligning activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, reauthorized as the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). To read the TEN, click [here](#).

Secretary Chavez-DeRemer Completes 50-State ‘America at Work’ Listening Tour in First Year as Labor Secretary. U.S. Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer completed her “America at Work” listening tour with a visit to Tulsa, Oklahoma. One year ago, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer set out to meet with workers and employers in all 50 states and committed to bring their stories back to Washington to shape federal labor policies and practices. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Departments of ED and Treasury Announce Historic Federal Student Assistance Partnership. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) announced the Federal Student Assistance Partnership to enhance the administration of Federal student aid programs, mitigate the continuing fallout and cost to taxpayers from the Biden Administration’s mismanagement of the Federal student loan portfolio, and facilitate the return of defaulted borrowers to repayment. Click here to view the [press release](#).

Headlines

(continued)

Strengthening Education and Workforce Training: Workcred and the National Accreditation Commission Are Teaming Up. Workcred and the National Accreditation Commission (NAC) are partnering to strengthen standards and review processes for short-term education and workforce training programs. Together, they are developing criteria and templates to support rigorous, scalable evaluation of non-degree workforce programs. To obtain additional information, click [here](#).

NRF Foundation and PepsiCo Foundation Launch Retail Training Initiative to Advance Career Readiness. The [National Retail Federation Foundation](#) (NRF) and the [PepsiCo Foundation](#) announced the launch of the NRF Foundation Retail Training Initiative, a new partnership designed to strengthen career readiness and economic mobility by expanding access to essential retail skills training and credentials. To view the press release, click [here](#).

Featured Program and Participant

Bridges from School to Work Inc (Workforce Pathways for Youth Program)

Ashley is currently enrolled at Chattahoochee Technical College in Dallas, Georgia, where she is pursuing an associate degree in Computer Science (Information Technology). Since joining Bridges, Ashley has demonstrated consistent determination and growth. She successfully completed the Accenture internship, worked full time as a Front Desk Associate at Hampton Inn, and currently holds a full-time position at Sam's Club in Hiram, Georgia.

Her discipline and financial responsibility have paid off in a manner that she sees as a major accomplishment. Through diligent saving, Ashley recently purchased her first car outright with cash. She proudly shared how excited she was to own "a nice car" with no car payments.

Looking ahead, Ashley's next goals are to secure a place of her own and to one day work full time at Accenture. Her journey reflects resilience, focus, and a strong belief in the power of hard work and opportunity.

Featured Program and Participant

(continued)

Bridges from School to Work Inc (Workforce Pathways for Youth Program)

When Ashley was first referred to Bridges, she was experiencing homelessness and struggling academically. Ashley shared that she spent several months sleeping on the floor of her friend's dorm room until her friend's parents graciously allowed her to stay with them.

When I first met Ashley, she expressed a clear set of goals: to graduate from high school, enroll in college, obtain a job, purchase a car, and secure a place of her own.

After graduation, Ashley was selected to participate in the Accenture Summer Internship Program, which she described as a life-changing experience. She shared that the program "introduced her to a new world of working." Through this opportunity, Ashley developed valuable computer skills, learned workplace etiquette, built confidence, and gained experience working remotely. She also took the initiative to connect with a financial advisor to help her manage her finances more effectively.

Interested in sharing a new practice or innovative approach that you're trying in your area?

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is interested in sharing strategies from across the country to promote peer learning and replication. If you would like to be considered for featuring in an upcoming newsletter, please email your organization, program name and brief description of the practice or approach to the ETA Division of Youth Services at: youth.services@dol.gov.

Funding & Other Opportunities

9/11 Day Invites Applications for its Youth Service Grant Program. 9/11 Day is accepting applications for its Youth Service Grant Program. This program provides small grants to help schools organize volunteer service, and related service-learning activities in observance of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. These projects and activities can include engaging teachers and parents in individual or group acts of kindness and community service for 9/11 Day. Eligible applicants include: K-12 school administrators, teachers, or staff members and official school-affiliated organizations (such as PTOs, PTAs, or school foundations) applying on behalf of a school or district. K-12 School Grants range from \$2,000 – \$5,000 depending on scope, scale and reach. [Read more](#). **Deadline: April 17.**

BJA Announces FY25 Second Chance Act Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is accepting applications for its Second Chance Act Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program. The program's goal is to improve academic and vocational/trade programs available to people in prisons and jails and expand workforce development and career pathways that result in improved job readiness, employment attainment, and retention thereby improving employment prospects and reducing recidivism. [Read more](#). **Deadline: May 4.**

DOL Invites Applications in support of the Administration's EOC Program. The Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting applications in support of the administration of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education. The purposes of the EOC Program are to provide information regarding financial and academic assistance available for qualified individuals who want to enter or continue to pursue a program of postsecondary education; provide assistance to those individuals in applying for admission to institutions that offer programs of postsecondary education, and improve the financial and economic literacy of program participants. Grant number: [ED-GRANT-26-024](#). **Deadline: May 14.**

DOL Invites Applications for its Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is accepting applications for its Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (Round 6). The grants will fund community colleges, with a singular focus on building program and system capacity for implementing and scaling access to short-term training opportunities through Workforce Pell Grants—i.e., promoting industry-driven strategies, worker mobility, and integration with the larger state workforce system (e.g., Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners) for statewide impact. Grant number: [FOA-ETA-26-40](#). **Deadline: May 20.**

Resources

Advancing College & Career Readiness: A Blueprint for School Board Policy. This [publication](#) released by EdTrust provides a model policy suite designed to ensure that graduation leads to real opportunity for every student.

Rural Entrepreneurship Index. This [resource](#) built in partnership with the Capital One Insights Center, gives rural leaders a clear, data-driven way to see where their community is on the journey toward a more vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and glean insights from peer communities across the country.

Digital Jobs Pathways Toolkit. This [toolkit](#) was developed to serve as a strategic, action-oriented resource to help intermediaries build data-driven, learner-centered, and employer-aligned pathways to digital jobs.

Applied Co-Intelligence: Preparing Career and Technical Education Learners for an AI-Driven Workforce. This [report](#) funded by the ECMC Foundation, examines how CTE can evolve to prepare students for an AI-driven workforce. It traces AI's trajectory, explores its impact on the future of work, includes analysis of its impact across Career Clusters, and provides actionable guidance for CTE educators, policymakers, employers, and researchers.

Upcoming Webinars/Webcasts

On May 7th, the Employment and Training Administration will host a webinar entitled: **CareerOneStop: Help Your Customers Stand Out in Their Job Search.** During the webinar attendees will learn how CareerOneStop can help customers find job openings that aren't on job banks, write or refresh their resumes with current practices, and explore short term qualifications that can help them compete for in-demand careers. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Past Webinars/Webcasts

On March 26th, the Employment and Training Administration in partnership with Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) hosted a webinar entitled: **Opening Doors: Empowering the Disability Talent Pipeline through Apprenticeships.** This webinar highlighted recommendations that state policymakers and apprenticeship partners can implement to increase participation among apprentices with disabilities. It also featured two model programs that lead to high wages and full-time employment. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Resources

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On March 11th, the Employment and Training Administration in partnership with the Federal Trade Commission hosted a webinar entitled: **Consumer Protection: Job Searching Strategies to Protect Against Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft**. The webinar provided ideas for workforce programs to incorporate proactive financial and consumer protection practices into financial literacy education for workforce participants to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed financial decisions that promote long-term financial health and stability. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

On February 27th, the Employment and Training Administration hosted a webinar entitled: **National Apprenticeship Week 2026 Public Webinar**. The webinar included discussion about how to get involved in the 12th annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW). During the webinar presenters shared everything one needs to know about daily themes, submitting events and proclamations for the NAW webpage, resources for planning and promoting events, information on participating in events, and more. To view an archive of the webinar, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

April 19-25. [National Volunteer Week](#).



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Youth Resource Connections Newsletter, visit the [U.S. Department of Labor E-mail Subscription Service](#).

We welcome your input.

Please let us know how these newsletters might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have comments, contact the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services via e-mail: youth.services@dol.gov.

The Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) does not take responsibility for non-endorsed DOL/ETA resources included in the newsletter.