The Door’s EPOCH Program Connects Young Adults to Lifelong Career Success

Grounded in the mission of empowering young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive and individualized youth services in a caring, supportive environment, The Door’s EPOCH Program is a holistic career and education program designed to serve New York City’s most vulnerable out of school and out of work youth who lack support structures and stability within their lives. EPOCH aims to prepare young people for meaningful placements in college and/or employment, developing their potential for economic self-sufficiency. For its successes in assisting one of New York City’s most vulnerable populations, the NYC Employment and Training Coalition recognizes The Door’s EPOCH Program with this year’s Serving Young Adults Award and acknowledgment during its recent Opportunity Awards reception on October 28th.

The EPOCH program’s approach is unique in that it developed out of The Door’s more than 40 years of supporting young people on the pathways to adulthood. The EPOCH model is grounded in the principles and practices of youth development, providing menu of services to young people from basic literacy instruction through advanced occupational skills training and post-secondary education support. EPOCH offers a comprehensive and individualized experience, with program staff working with each young adult as partners in setting and reaching their goals. Furthermore, the program is able to leverage the broader array of resources within The Door, such as art programs, mental health services and other supports, to fully address a young person’s needs as they arise. Enrolling all interested youth regardless of skill level or barriers to success, EPOCH staff emphasize the importance of working with each participant as a partner in their own success by individualizing their experience and timeline.

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Free Upcoming NYCETC Events: Register Today!

Workshop: Skilled Immigrant Professional Integration

Over 1.5 million immigrants to the U.S. who were educated abroad as doctors, scientists, engineers and other professionals who are too often unemployed or working as cashiers, housekeepers and nannies. This “brain waste” has implications for immigrant families, our broader communities, businesses, and the economy as we fail to capitalize on their talents. Yet strategies to help them rebuild their careers already exist!

This workshop will introduce you to common barriers and introduce successful interventions for working with both immigrants and policy makers to pave the way for skilled immigrants to find appropriate employment in the United States.

Presented by staff from WES Global Talent Bridge, IMPRINT, Upwardly Global, CAMBA and Goodwill.

Attendance is free but strictly limited to 40, so register today at http://conta.cc/1wuGASb

DATE:            Tuesday, November 11, 2014
TIME:             9:30 am - 10:00 am Breakfast
                  10:00 am - 12:00 pm Workshop
LOCATION:         NYCETC Conference Room - 121 6th Avenue, 6th Floor

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Meet ACCESS-VR: Creating Partnerships for Serving Individuals with Disabilities

NYCETC is partnering with New York’s Adult Career and Continuing Education Services –Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-VR) for an event to focus on providing services and developing partnerships with organizations who for individuals with disabilities. Come learn about ACCESS-VR and successful partnerships between workforce providers and the agency, while making connections to better help your clients. There will be time for interactive discussions between ACCESS-VR staff and NYCETC member organizations. Great for CBOs, community colleges and other direct service providers.

DATE:            Thursday, November 13, 2014
TIME:            9:00 am - 12:00pm
LOCATION:        Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
                  163 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY

To register:     http://conta.cc/1EQkb7X
NYCETC 2014 Opportunity Awards Reception

The New York City Employment and Training Coalition celebrated the tremendous work of the city’s workforce development community this Tuesday, October 28 with its annual reception honoring this year’s award recipients. More than 200 workforce staff and supporters were in attendance to recognize the commitment and achievements of the award winner and the workforce development community as a whole. NYCETC would like to thank all attendees and sponsors, and recognize its members’ dedication to building better lives for everyone they serve. Below is a compilation of photos from the night of celebration.

All photos were taken by Daniel Hopper, whose work can be found at http://www.dhopperphotography.com/

*Left:* Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, winner of the Kathleen Masters Leadership Award, with NYCETC Board Chair Randy Peers and Kathleen Masters.

*Right:* Program Participant Award winner Johnny Price celebrates with family and friends from Seedco and BronxWorks.

*Left:* (from right to left) NYCETC Executive Director Mary Ellen Clark, Eileen Reilly (CAMBA), Katy Gaul-Stigge (Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development) and Flutra Gorana (Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow).

*Right:* Founding NYCETC Board Members Kathy Schrier and Ginny Cruickshank received special recognitions for their decades of dedication to the workforce development field.
Above Top: The BuildingWorks team from New York City District Council of Carpenters Labor Technical College after winning the Encouraging Career Advancement in a Growth Sector Award.

Above Bottom: The Door, winner of the 2014 Serving Young Adults Award for its EPOCH Program.

Above Right: Mary Ellen Clark hands the Program Participant award to Johnny Price and his beaming son.

Above Top: Angie Buonpane takes the stage to accept Union Square Hospitality Group’s Outstanding Private Sector Leadership Award from Mary Ellen Clark and Marie Wiggins of ROC United.

Above Bottom: Doe Fund’s Felipe Vargas and Drive Change’s Jordyn Lexton and Roy Waterman receive the Employer-Provider Partnership Award.

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and NYCETC Executive Director Mary Ellen Clark.
Dennis Acevedo Helps Green City Force Empower Young Adults to Build More Environmentally Conscious Communities and Careers

Dennis Acevedo has overseen Green City Force’s (GCF) program for the past four years. He is a passionate and skilled leader who is deeply committed to young adults and their development as young professionals. He is an inspiration to GCF’s young adult participants and program staff – as professional, a father, and a human being – and is recognized for his dedication and creativity as a workforce professional with this year’s Bonnie Potter Workforce Staff Award.

Green City Force is an AmeriCorps program that engages young people from low income backgrounds in national service related to the environment. In doing so, GCF prepares them for sustainable careers, while reducing green-house gas emissions, building a greener city and healthier communities. Since its founding in 2009, GCF has engaged more than 270 young adults in its signature Clean Energy Corps program. Corps members learn about the field of weatherization and energy efficiency, using this knowledge to improve energy efficiency in low-income homes and raise awareness about energy conservation. Corps members engage in a variety of activities, from painting reflective white roofs, to testing indoor air quality and performing community outreach. The program’s design leads to a deep ripple effect throughout the communities where Corps Members work and live. By empowering young adults to lead more environmentally conscious lives and then teach these lessons throughout their communities, GCF helps improve individuals’ use of resources, eat healthier, and think critically about their bodies and environment.

As Senior Director of Programs, Dennis Acevedo has been integral to creating the GCF program design in NYC from its startup phase, bringing an intimate knowledge of what it takes to create and lead an urban youth corps that combines national service and workforce development to engage opportunity youth on a path to careers. GCFs Corps Members are residents of public housing who are 18-24 years old, have achieved a high school diploma or GED, and face barriers to obtaining employment or entering college without remediation. These barriers range from a lack of job readiness skills, to lagging academics, transitions from foster care, court involvement, domestic violence, health issues, gang-related pressures, debt, and often a basic lack of confidence in the future. The program developed under Mr. Acevedo’s leadership addresses the myriad of challenges faced by GCF’s young adult participants, building confidence and providing rigorous guidelines and constant feedback to instill positive and professional behaviors as well as supportive services to assist Corps Members in personal matters that can hinder their success. Having grown up in NYCHA housing himself in Coney Island, Mr. Acevedo is a living, breathing example of success that the Corps Members intimately relate to and aim to reach themselves.

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This nuanced approach is also found within EPOCH’s model for integrating career and educational goals. “We strongly stress the fact that your ability to succeed in a long-term capacity is interlocked with deeper educational and personal growth,” says Andrea Vaghy Benyola, The Door’s Managing Director of Career and Education Services. “We try to move retention goals toward a focus on moving an individual up the hill in their career and personal skill attainment, rather than remaining in an already existing position. Drive and strength are fundamental.” EPOCH is unique in that program eligibility is based on a young person’s commitment and motivation rather than a prescribed set of skills and proficiencies. Using a youth development framework, all participants are held to very high expectations while also provided intensive support.

These efforts have led to strong results. Last year, The Door served 491 young people; the majority coming from low-income families and communities with high unemployment rates, failing schools, substandard housing, and high rates of crime and violence. Despite this multitude of challenges, EPOCH’s participants achieved impressive outcomes: 87 attained their high school equivalency diploma, 102 completing employment training, and 206 were placed in employment, and internship or entered college. By creating a flexible and comprehensive model that meets young adults where they are, The Door’s EPOCH program has helped hundreds of young adults create lifelong career success.
$24 Million Available in Federal Funding for Jobs Plus Pilot Program

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the availability of funding of approximately $24 million for the Jobs Plus Pilot program for Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to develop locally-based approaches to increase earnings and advance employment outcomes for Public Housing residents. The NOFA will fund initiatives to improve employment and earnings outcomes for Public Housing residents through supports such as work readiness, employer linkages, job placement and financial literacy. Of the $24 million available, $9 million is made available from the ROSS appropriations to support the services element of the Jobs-Plus Pilot program.

These grants will employ several principles of the President’s Job Driven training checklist to ensure that public housing residents are connected to a program that is using evidence-based practices that work for job seekers and employers.

- Labor Market Data: Successful programs will first consider the data in their local community – where are the jobs and what industries offer the most opportunities for residents to achieve long-term employment and progression along a career pathway.
- Career Pathways: Successful programs will also promote a seamless progression across work-based training and education, so individuals are obtaining new training and credentials.
- Work Experience: Successful programs will support learning opportunities with employers – including on-the-job training, internships and pre-apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships – as training paths to employment.
- Access to Training: Successful programs will break down barriers to accessing job-driven training and hiring for any public housing resident who is willing and able to work, including access to job supports and relevant guidance.
- Key Partnerships: Finally, a successful Jobs Plus Pilot program is collaboratively designed and implemented by high-performing local housing authorities, residents of public housing developments, Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and American Job Centers (also known as One Stop Career Centers), local businesses and employers, and other organizations that provide supportive services within that community.

Applications are due on December 17, 2014. For more information, go to [http://1.usa.gov/1vW6Qs9](http://1.usa.gov/1vW6Qs9)

Federal Transit Administration Announces Availability of $9 Million for Public Transportation Workforce Development Models and Programs

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a Notice of Funding Availability for the Innovative Public Transportation Workforce Development Program (Ladders of Opportunity Initiative). FTA has budgeted approximately $9 million for this solicitation. This NOFA solicits proposals that promote innovative nationally and regionally significant public transportation workforce development models and programs that invest in America’s economic growth and help build ladders of opportunity into the middle class for American workers.

The agency places a strong focus on strategic partnerships between the lead applicant and external partner organizations including

- Educational institutions, which include entities providing professional accreditation, degree, and/or certification programs, such as universities, community colleges, or trade schools, either non-profit or for-profit.
- Public workforce investment systems, such as local Workforce Investment Boards and their one-stop systems.
- Labor organizations, such as labor unions and labor management organizations.
- Non-profit organizations that support the mission of transit and transportation workforce development.

For more information, go to [http://1.usa.gov/1DOfCaO](http://1.usa.gov/1DOfCaO)
NYC Employment & Training Coalition www.nycetc.org November 3 | 14

Workforce Marketplace is the gathering place for act-on news such as funding opportunities, RFPs, job postings, training program recruitment, and event announcements. For other job announcements, visit www.nycetc.org. For information on submitting items to Workforce Marketplace, contact Charlotte Volage at cvolage@nycetc.org or 212-253-6811.

NYC HRA's Biennial Employment Plan Open for Public Comment

The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) issued a plan for improving how the agency helps its clients develop job skills, obtain employment and build sustainable careers that provide a path out of poverty. In an effort to more effectively help New Yorkers in need connect to the careers that will help them escape poverty, HRA is making significant reforms to its employment programs. The Agency's biennial Employment Plan is posted for public comment until November 7. The plan and other HRA resources can be accessed at http://on.nyc.gov/1sZUbnw

Job: Henry Street Settlement

Henry Street Settlement seeks a Water Safety Instructor for its Youth Services department. Qualifications include: High school diploma or GED required; bachelor's degree preferred; Must possess Red Cross First Aid Certification, Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Certification, and Red Cross CPR certification; Must demonstrate outstanding aquatic skills and proficiency. For more information and to apply, got to http://bit.ly/1awCd0X

Job: Osborne Association

The Osborne Association seeks an Arches Mentor to provide direct mentoring services to youth between the ages of 16 through 24, who are under probation supervision, while enabling positive development and developing meaningful relationships with up to (4) young people at a time. Qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent; General work experience and understanding of general work ethic and office setting protocols; No formal required experience preferred; on the job training will suffice; Worked with youth/adults connected to the juvenile Justice Systems; Knowledge and skills in problem-solving and solution-based/client centered approaches. For more information and to apply, got to http://bit.ly/1awCd0X

Job: Queens Borough Public Library

Queens Borough Public Library seek a Job & Business Academy Manager. Qualifications include: Master's degree. ALA accredited MLS or MLIS preferred; A minimum of two (2) years demonstrated success in supervising staff and/or coordinating services or programs; 2 or more years of experience in job readiness or workforce development required; Demonstrated 3 years' or more experience providing excellent customer service to large volumes of individuals; Experience with managing grant programs and reporting; Strong organizational and management skills and ability to multi-task. For more information and to apply, got to http://bit.ly/1awCd0X

Job: Project Renewal

Project Renewal seeks a Coordinator for its Job Placement Program. Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred; Excellent presentation, writing and organization skills are a must; Knowledge of Windows and Microsoft Office essential; Bi-lingual a plus; Experience in job development, sales or marketing is required; previous supervision experience is strongly preferred; Must be a strong team player. For more information and to apply, got to http://bit.ly/1awCd0X

Job: Osborne Association

The Osborne Association seeks an a Career Specialist. Qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent is preferred, or equivalent combination of education and experience; Prior job development background is required; A minimum of 4 years experience providing direct service to former prisoners and substance abuse population, or the demonstrated ability to make a high volume of job placements on a consistent basis. For more information and to apply, got to http://bit.ly/1awCd0X