Each year, the NYATEP team travels across the State meeting directly with our Members to better understand the common opportunities, challenges and innovation happening across the workforce system. Our work is driven by our Members’ feedback, and this year we had the chance to meet with over 250 leaders virtually!

Over the course of 3 days, the NYATEP team hosted five, 90-minute regional meetings via Zoom which provided us the opportunity to engage with workforce professionals to hear how they are adapting to COVID-19; identify where policy is getting in the way of innovation; and to learn about more about localized responses to the crisis.

We also had the opportunity to share what NYATEP has been working on and the ways we are maximizing Member investment in us annually.

For those unable to join us this year, you can download the Member Meeting Presentation [HERE]. Summarized meeting notes highlighting the themes and common sentiment from the dialogue are also available [HERE].

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a NYATEP member, visit our website www.nyatep.org to learn more!
NYATEP 2020 Youth Academy Update

Our first priority is your safety, therefore we are cancelling the 2020 Youth Academy scheduled for June 3rd – June 5th, 2020 in Saratoga Springs.

If you are registered for this event:

- **YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING.** The NYATEP staff will cancel your registration and issue a full refund to all who have paid in advance. Additionally, all hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Saratoga will be cancelled, with no penalty to you.

- **Information on refunds:**
  - **Already paid via credit card:** The card used to pay for the reservation will receive a refund via PayPal by May 1st. Check your email for confirmation.

  - **Already paid by check:** If you mailed a check to NYATEP and it has been cashed, NYATEP will send your organization a refund check in the next 30 days. If your check was not cashed, we will send you an email indicating the check was received and shredded, and no refund will be issued.

  - **If you chose to be invoiced** and have not yet sent payment, no action is required

Are you working to figure out how to effectively serve young adults during this challenging new era? Join NYATEP for our first ever, Youth Practitioners Virtual Learning Lab on June 4th from 10:00AM - 3:00PM!

This virtual, interactive experience will connect you with national experts, creative thinkers, and your community of youth workforce providers. Speaker line up, agenda and registration information will be available on Wednesday, May 6th. We can’t wait to “see” you there!
NYATEP Board Nominations are now open

NYATEP’s Board of Directors are now accepting nominations for the following roles:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Second Executive Vice President
- Treasurer
- Hudson Valley Regional Vice President
- Three At-Large Members

Terms begin July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022

Timetable for Board Elections:

1. Nominations must be received Friday, May 15, 2020
2. Ballots Distributed to Voting Members Wednesday, May 20, 2020
3. Close of Voting Friday, May 29, 2020
4. Report of Election Results Friday, June 5, 2020

For more information on how to submit a nomination, visit HERE.
The Heldrich Center for Workforce Development has announced the appointment of seven new members to its distinguished National Advisory Board.

Carl Van Horn, Director of the Heldrich Center and Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Rutgers University, shared, “I am thrilled to welcome these individuals to our board. They join us at a critical juncture in time, when world events are changing people’s lives and the way we work. I look forward to collaborating with each of them as the Heldrich Center works to address the ramifications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Additionally, Laurence M. Downes, Chair of the Center’s National Advisory Board, said, “We are delighted to have these talented individuals join our board. Their diverse range of experience will expand our ability to achieve the Heldrich Center’s mission and provide valuable career information and strategies to a broader range of individuals and organizations. Carl and I are looking forward to their many contributions.”

The newly appointed board members are as follows:

- **Aisha Glover** is President and CEO of the Newark Alliance.
- **Todd Greene** is Executive Director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium Inc., the world's oldest and largest consortium of historically Black colleges and universities.
- **Christopher T. King** is a Labor Economist and a Senior Research Scientist at the University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs’ Ray Marshall Center, which he directed from 1991 to 2014.
- **Melinda Mack** is Executive Director of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals.
- **Mary Alice McCarthy** is the Director of the Center on Education and Skills at New America.
- **Jane Oates** is the President of WorkingNation. Previously, she served as Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training at the U.S. Department of Labor.
- **Marlena Sessions** joined Grant Associates in June 2017 and currently serves as the Senior Vice President.

**READ THE OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE HERE**
ICYMI: Episode 2 of The Future Works Podcast is Now Live

EPISODE 2: The Economic Downturn in New York No One Saw Coming
Amidst the economic fallout of COVID-19, this episode of the Future Works features noted labor market experts James Parrot of The New School and Laura Schultz of the Rockefeller Institute, who will share their perspectives why this crisis is unlike anything they have ever seen. We’ll also get a local take from Andrew Kennedy, Center for Economic Growth and David Coryer, Coryer Staffing on how businesses across the state are making it through this crisis or struggling to stay afloat.

The Future Works: A Podcast for Workforce Leaders is hosted by Melinda Mack and explores topics and insights that matter to our members. Join us as we sit down with experts from across the state, nation and globe to bring you viewpoints from the best and brightest in workforce and economic development.

The podcast is available now on both iTunes and Spotify. Click the logos above to listen and subscribe today.

FEMA Public Assistance: Funding available to governments and nonprofit organizations

The NYC Office of Emergency Management recorded a webinar on April 22nd on FEMA Public Assistance available funds.

The recording from the April 22nd webinar on Federal Funding Programs for Community Recovery can be found HERE. The slide deck can be found HERE.

You can register for a webinar on Recovery Cost Tracking Best Practices, scheduled for 4pm on Wed., 4/29: HERE.
NEW REPORT RELEASE: Delivering Workforce Services in the COVID-19 Environment

In the early weeks of March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly shut down much of the U.S. economy. Stay-at-home orders forced the closure of all “non-essential” businesses and anyone who could, began working from home, generally with little planning or preparation.

The sudden shutdown upended all aspects of life and work, creating tremendous uncertainty, despair, anxiety, and hardship. By mid-April, nearly 17 million Americans had filed unemployment claims and that number surely will go higher as the nation grapples with containing the virus.

In April 2020, in order to understand how the public workforce system immediately responded to this unprecedented emergency, the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey surveyed 160 frontline staff and managers in the public workforce system in seven states and conducted three virtual roundtable discussions with 31 participants. These workforce professionals are on the front lines as “second responders” to the crisis, helping millions of Americans cope with abrupt unemployment. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, most workforce development services were provided by staff in offices with minimal technology tools or virtual service delivery. Given the nature and extent of this crisis, the Heldrich Center wanted to understand how the public workforce delivery system initially adapted to both working in virtual teams and providing virtual services, particularly in the event that this situation continues for some time.

Click HERE for full report
SPOTLIGHT: Chautauqua Works

By: Katie Geise, Workforce Board Director, Chautauqua Works

The Chautauqua County Workforce Development Board (CCWDB) dba Chautauqua Works has been partnering with many organizations to respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some of the initiatives we have been working on and partners we have been coordinating with during this critical time:

- Chautauqua County IDA (CCIDA) designated and created a $250,000 loan fund for Chautauqua County businesses to assist them during this time. Loans for up to $10,000 were made available to 25 different businesses while contributing $250,000 to the local economy in “lightening” time (less than 5 weeks)! More information is available at this link:

- All Chautauqua Works staff were provided laptops and equipment so that they can access all network systems and information remotely in less than a week.

- Chautauqua Works staff are providing all services remotely including, but not limited to, assessments, career guidance appointments, mock interviews, virtual workshops, answering questions, providing resources and referrals, business outreach and assistance, OJT development and assessment, and completing all data entry.

- Chautauqua Works staff conducted their first Live workshop on FaceBook called How to Nail the Distance Interview. You can check it out at this link:

- The Chautauqua Works Disability Resource Coordinator will be holding a Live Chat on FaceBook next week.

- Chautauqua Works has created their own YouTube channel to provide the forum through which to create and deliver even more workshops, activities, and services virtually. Check it out at this link:

- As we begin to prepare to re-open for business, CCWDB and CCIDA identified a need for assistance to businesses in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment for workers and re-designing their workspace to adhere to CDC Social Distancing Guidelines with the assistance of a consultant. The CCIDA leads the way again in designating $20,000 to begin a matching fund creating a Workplace Safety Compliance Matching Grant Program. Matching funds are actively being pursued from local organizations such as Foundations and Rotary Clubs. This Program was announced and launched on Wednesday and the first business is already participating and meeting with a consultant on Friday! More information is available at this link:

- Chautauqua County is beginning to assist businesses in developing re-opening plans to ensure that the area can get back to business safely and responsibly.
In manufacturing, plant shutdowns occur frequently. Sometimes they are scheduled for planned maintenance. In other instances, equipment fails. The best manufacturers use shutdowns not only to fix what’s broken but also to upgrade their entire system. This is how we need to approach our economy right now.

American workers have been hit by both a pandemic and the largest wave of unemployment since the Great Depression. Nearly 23 million new unemployment claims have been filed, increasing the jobless total eightfold in four weeks. Some believe that the U.S. economy will shrink by 35 percent this quarter and that total unemployment could rise to 50 million, roughly one-third of the work force. The hardest hit will be workers in jobs that don’t require a college education or advanced degree.

While social distancing remains a necessity, this moment also gives us an opportunity to increase the skills of America’s labor force in ways that will benefit workers — and our economy — for years to come.

Northeast states form council on reopening the economy

The seven northeast states working together on COVID-19 response each announced three appointees to a council developing plans to reopen the economy on Sunday.

Each governor appointed a chief of staff, a health expert, and an economic development leader. In New York, the appointees are Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa, Budget Director Robert Mujica and Northwell Health President and CEO Michael Dowling.

“This is not a light switch that we can just flick on and everything goes back to normal,” Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a release. “We have to come up with a smart, consistent strategy to restart the systems we shut down and get people back to work, and to the extent possible we want to do that through a regional approach because we are a regional economy.”

Use the Coronavirus Shutdown to Train Workers

We can use this stoppage in the economy to upgrade our nation’s productivity.
The Fight for a Fair Recovery Announcement

On April 26th, the NYC Mayor's Office announced the City's Fair Recovery for All Plan. Click the link below to view the talking points related to this recovery plan.

READ THE PIECE HERE

The New York Times

The $600 Unemployment Booster Shot, State by State

Before the coronavirus, people receiving unemployment benefits in most states got, on average, less than half their weekly salaries.

Now, as millions file claims, many are poised to receive more money than they would have typically earned in their jobs, thanks to the additional $600 a week set aside in the federal stimulus package for the unemployed.

READ THE PIECE HERE

THE HILL

Put 1 million Americans back to work with community public service jobs

More than a decade ago, with the nation's unemployment rate nearing 10 percent, President Barack Obama convened dozens of business, labor, and community leaders at a White House summit to help him devise strategies for generating jobs. President Obama and Congress funded job-creating infrastructure projects, aid to state and local governments and education, environmentally sustaining “green jobs,” medical research, and tax cuts for businesses. These initiatives paid off, with millions of jobs saved or created. However, a proven strategy got little or no attention during the Great Recession — direct public service employment.

READ THE ARTICLE HERE
On April 23rd, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced the creation of the Ulster County Recovery Task Force. The primary goal of the task force is to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response to the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on county residents. The Recovery Task Force will coordinate the response to these challenges across Ulster County, and work to develop new and innovative ways to deliver critical services.

Chaired by the Director of the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training, Tomasine Oliphant, the task force will be composed of leaders from a diverse group of non-profit and community groups as well as key county government leaders. The group will work to track, understand, and respond to the county's anticipated needs in areas including unemployment, housing, mental health, human rights, youth services, food security, substance use, and more.

READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE

Buffalo employment center works against the grain to continue new job placements amidst virus

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WKBW) — Unemployment claims in Western New York are up 2,577% from this time last year. 27,335 people have filed claims in the region, so far, many due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It sounds dismal, but David Lloyd of the Buffalo Employment and Training Center (BETC) says places are still hiring. As of April 20, the BETC had placed 44 people in new positions since the start of the crisis.

It's all because of the center going virtual.

READ THE ARTICLE HERE

Director of the Ulster County Office of Employment and Training, Tomasine Oliphant to Chair the Ulster County Recovery Task Force

On April 23rd, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan announced the creation of the Ulster County Recovery Task Force. The primary goal of the task force is to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response to the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on county residents. The Recovery Task Force will coordinate the response to these challenges across Ulster County, and work to develop new and innovative ways to deliver critical services.
Reminder to Complete Your 2020 U.S. Census

These are tough times for all of us. Help your community receive the federal funding it needs for the next 10 years by taking 10 minutes to complete your 2020 Census.

Workforce, hospitals, schools, roads, transportation and more all receive the federal funding based on Census data.

Complete your 2020 Census. We're counting on you!

[Click HERE to complete your census NOW!]

Potential UI Scams to be aware of

Please be aware of a few fraudulent items that have occurred in Niagara County and could potentially be happening in your region. These items are meant for informational purposes only. Please contact your local DOL representatives for further information.

From our Disability Resource Coordinator:
My Ticket holder said that "UI rep" asked for the information, she said that she had put the information on her application, and the rep said that they did not have access to the information. My Ticket holder hung up on the rep. No one else has attempted to call her since. The call was initially made to her on Saturday night at 10pm. I am not convinced that her call from "Experis" was not a scam.

From our Career Center Staff:
The current issue we are seeing is with regards to the call backs from DOL staff for applicants with incomplete applications. We were told last week that customers would be receiving a call-back within 72 hours from DOL staff, who would verify their identity by providing information specific to the claim that was filed.

But what our customers are experiencing is 3rd party callers who say they are not with DOL, are calling from another state, don't have access to the information already provided by the customers, in some cases are calling well after hours (10pm, 12:30am), and then are asking for personal information such as mother's maiden name, address, last 4 digits of SS#, etc. Our customers are understandably concerned by this outreach and many are refusing to give information, even hanging up on the callers.

Response from our Local DOL Person:Yes, we are calling individuals. But no one is calling at 10:00pm. To verify the individuals Identify, we are asking them to confirm the spelling of their name, last 4 SSN and mothers maiden name and their date of birth. The Rep should be able to tell the customer how they applied (phone or internet) as well as their last date of work! We are calling from either a 518 or 888 number. If customers do not answer, it may delay the completion if their application.
Upcoming Member Information, Events & Funding Opportunities

FEMA Public Assistance: funding available to governments and nonprofit organizations.

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m
Location: Online webinar

Register for a webinar on Recovery Cost Tracking Best Practices

Learn more HERE

Job Opportunity
Executive Assistant
JOIN OUR TEAM! NYATEP is hiring in the Albany area. The Executive Assistant will be responsible for a wide variety of administrative functions to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of a fast-paced, membership-focused environment.

Learn More HERE

Job Opportunity
Research Manager/ Lead: Worker Education and Workforce Development
School of Labor and Urban Studies is seeking a researcher for its Workforce Development unit. The researcher will report to the Director of Worker Education and will design and manage research projects, collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data, conduct educational needs assessments for union members, crossmatch CUNY data with union data, and provide career and educational mapping plans, etc.

Learn More HERE

Job Opportunity
Skills Training Program Manager
The Program Manager will oversee the current Skills Training program, help to launch a new Technology Training pilot and manage 2+ staff members.

Learn More HERE