Bridging Partnerships to Break Barriers

PWDA Annual Conference
Driving Workforce Connections
October 21st, 2020
Our Presenters

Jane Stein
Research & Performance Officer
MontcoWorks

Terri Jones
Support Services Coordinator
MontcoWorks
Jennifer Butler
Executive Director of MontcoWorks
Montgomery County Workforce Development Board
In April 2017, the PA DOL, in collaboration with the PDE’s Office of Commonwealth Libraries, hosted a series of State and Community Partner Networking Sessions to promote agency and stakeholder collaboration.

Attendees were asked to model and host their own event.

In September 2017, we hosted our first event and named it **Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action.**
2017 – Year 1

Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action

Tuesday, September 26, 2017
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
(8:45 AM Check-in and Networking)

Montgomery County – Norristown Public Library
1001 Powell Street, Norristown, PA 19401

Join the panel discussion of state and local workforce development stakeholders on current practices of developed community partnerships and solutions to common challenges in serving the needs of employers and job seekers in Montgomery County.

- Best practices and trends
- Engage with state and local workforce agencies
- Learn about ways to expand your program’s reach
- Networking opportunity

Click Here To Register


For more information, contact Terri Jones: t.jones@montco.pa.gov.
Montgomery County
Norristown Public Library
Panel Discussion

- Montgomery County Norristown Public Library
- PA Dept. of Labor & Industry
- Dept. of Human Services (CAO)
- Montgomery County Workforce Development Board
- PA CareerLink® Montgomery County
- Title I Provider; EDSI
- Montgomery County Community Connections
- Title II Provider; Keystone Opportunity Center
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Community Q&A
Members of the community and other workforce stakeholders had the opportunity to ask the panelists questions and bring up their concerns.
After the event, we were able to regroup and discuss the feedback we received and what we thought worked and did not work.
2018 – Year 2

The Montgomery County Workforce Development Board Presents:

Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action

October 3, 2018

Keynote Speaker
Peggy Schmidt
Executive Director
Transportation Management Association

Program
8:45 AM
> Registration Open & Refreshments

8:45 AM – 9:30 AM
> Partner Showcase & Networking

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM
> Welcome
  Terri C. Jones, Support Services Coordinator
  MontcoWorks

> Opening Remarks
  Montgomery County Commissioners
  Dr. Valerie A. Atkinson – Chair
  Joseph C. Gale – Commissioner

> Presentation of Bridge Builder Award
  Suzanne Ryan – Regional External Affairs Manager, PECO Energy and WASB Chair

> Montgomery County’s Economic Snapshot
  Kelsey Mattson, Strategic Outreach and Business Assistance Coordinator
  Commerce Department

10:05 AM – 10:35 AM
> Keynote Speaker
  Peggy Schmidt, Executive Director
  The Partnership TMA

10:35 AM – 11:35 AM
> Panel Discussion and Q & A

11:35 AM – 12:00 PM
> Introduction

Cynthia Thorne, EARN Career Coach

> Partnerships in Action Success Story
  Margaret Smith, Administrative Assistant

> Closing Remarks
  Jennifer Butler, Executive Director, MontcoWorks

Partner Showcase / Networking / Refreshments

Panel Moderator
Mr. Craig Cuthbert, Operator Manager
PA CareerLink® Montgomery County

Panelists
Mary Beth Snyder, Executive Director
Montgomery County Community Connections

Elizabeth DiArengelo, Administrator
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Stephanie Perry, District Administrator
PA CareerLink® Montgomery County

Lauren Bishop, Program Manager
Montgomery County – Norristown Public Library

Loretta Ritter, Head of Reference Services
Keystone Opportunity Center

Susan Clauer, Director of Adult Education
PA Labor and Industry

Robert Clark, Veteran’s Employment Representative, 1DVOP
MontcoWorks

MontcoWorks would like to thank the Montgomery County – Norristown Public Library for hosting this event.

This workforce development event has been organized to promote agency and stakeholder collaboration and to cultivate referral systems in Montgomery County. Ultimately, this will result in better usage of resources and a better experience for the employers and job seekers we serve.
Opening Remarks

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH  
Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr.  
Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale  
Commissioner

Montgomery County Commissioners
Partner Showcase
8 agencies participated
Bridge Builder Award
A new feature to recognize workforce partners whose collaborative efforts have contributed to bridging resources to assist the community break down barriers.
The 1st Bridge Builder

Peggy Schmidt chairs the MontcoWorks Local Management Committee. She is the Executive Director of the Partnership Transportation Management Association and a key workforce partner in Montgomery County. We asked Peggy “What did it mean to you to be the recipient of the ‘Bridge Builder Award’ at the 2018 Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action event?”
Panel Discussion – We came up with 8 focused questions for the panelists to guide the conversation

Panel Discussion Question #4

Apprenticeships, paid work experiences, industry recognized certificates and non-degree credentials are some practices used to enhance a job seeker’s career opportunities.

What initiatives or best practices does your agency use to strengthening career pathways and guided skill attainment for good jobs, economic opportunity and career growth?
Success! Another new element was to show the community how all of our partners and resources can work together to lead to participant success.
Attendance at this year’s event far exceeded our inaugural event.
After the event, we sent out a survey monkey to gather feedback to continuously improve the event.
Susan Clauser chairs the MontcoWorks Training & Performance Committee as a representative of Title II. She is the Adult Education Director at the Keystone Opportunity Center and a key workforce partner in Montgomery County. We asked Susan “What is the value of building strong partnerships in the work that you do?”
2019 – Year 3

Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action

3rd Annual

Free Event & Free Parking

This workforce development event has been organized to promote state and local workforce agency and stakeholder collaboration. Be a part of the discussion addressing the common challenges and solutions in serving employers and job seekers in Montgomery County.

Keynote Speaker
Eileen Cipriani
Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development at PA Department of Labor & Industry

October 2nd
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Montgomery County Norristown Public Library
1001 Powell Street
Norristown, PA 19401
Parking Garage entrance on Swede St.

Partner Showcase • Networking • Keynote Speaker • “In The Know”
New This Year → 30-minute Clinics • Awards • Door Prizes

Register Here
To Attend and/or to be a Partner Showcase Exhibitor

Register Now
www.MontcoWorks.org

Nominate Here by 9/6/19
A Workforce Partner for the 2019 Bridge Builder Award

Pennsylvania CareerLink
MontcoWorks Workforce Development Board
Partner Showcase
13 agencies participated
Partner Showcase Exhibitors
MontcoWorks thanks our Partner Showcase Exhibitors for their participation at our 3rd Annual Workforce Event.
Building a Bridge of Business Cards
The Seeds of Success award had a new look this year, a visual representation of all of the different agencies that helped one individual overcome barriers to achieve success.
Building Bridges & Breaking Barriers!

County Assistance Office
EARN Program
The Salvation Army – Norristown
Early Learning Resource Center
Laurel House
Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities
Your Way Home
Montgomery County Housing Authority
A word from one of our partners....

André Hardy was the Program Director for EDSI Solutions, Inc. and oversaw Title I Services and EARN program services. We asked André “What does it mean, to the whole team, when a participant is successful in obtaining their goals? What do you look for in selecting success stories to share?”
“In the Know” was a modified version of the panel discussion. With so much built into this years event, we allotted each partner a few minutes to discuss 3 things they wanted the public and partner agencies to know about their work.
A lot of information was packed into the event so we wanted attendees to have a takeaway session on wellness.
A word from one of our partners

Kyle Longacre is the Chair of the MontcoWorks Youth Committee and the Program Administrator for College and Career Readiness with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, our WIOA Youth Services Provider. We asked Kyle “How has attending the Building Bridges: Workforce Partnerships in Action events help you to build and bridge partnerships?”
What’s Next
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