

JANUARY 2021 | ISSUE 2



New Year, New Goals

As we ring in the new year we are proud to look back on 2020 as a year of growth and opportunity where we were given the chance to support the community and explore creative new ways of addressing Schenectady's employment, training, and hiring needs.

Winston Churchill once wrote "success is the ability to continue to move through total disaster." Through the uncertainty and devastation that 2020 brought to our world, we discovered more purpose than ever before in our work. Our refreshed perspectives, new programming, and expanded partnerships have been tremendous indicators of success that we look forward to building upon throughout 2021.

Join us as we share with you our plans for ongoing virtual hiring events, a series of virtual workshops, expanded youth programming opportunities, and continued dedication to individualized, holistic support of the job seekers and businesses in our community.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Future is Now page 2

Train for Change page 3

SUNY Oneonta
Internships

Director's Corner page 4

Save the Dates

Contact Information



The Future is Now

Two of the most sought-out resources offered by Schenectady County Connects are the workshops led by experienced Career Counselors and the hiring events featuring local employers. While the pandemic led to the need for consideration of safety above all, our desire to maintain these in-demand services was the push we needed to enter the virtual world.

As part of the Capital Region Workforce Development Board we will be hosting Virtual Hiring Events throughout 2021 utilizing the Premier Virtual platform. With a structure that mirrors a traditional job fair, participants will have a chance to click in and out of each businesses' booth, share a resume, view job postings, and chat in real-time with employers who are hiring. On January 27 we held our first event which was a huge success - we hosted 35 businesses and more than 200 job seekers!

The virtual workshops that are being rolled out in February have been completely revamped and will be presented using the Zoom meeting platform to maximize the ability for interaction. We hope you'll check out these great new offerings!

Keep in touch!

We'd love to keep you updated with all of our events and offerings! Please e-mail SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us if you'd like to be added to our distribution list.

Virtual Hiring Events

Stay tuned for our next event
@SchenectadyCountyConnects

Virtual Workshop Series

- Metrix Learning on February 2 at 1:30pm
- Resume Development on February 4 at 10am
- Interview Preparation on February 9 at 11am
- Completing Job Applications on February 16 at 11am
- Social Media on February 19 at 1pm
- Interview Preparation on February 23 at 1:30pm
- Experience Matters on February 25 at 10am

Check our social media pages @SchenectadyCountyConnects or contact SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us for links to register!



**VIRTUAL
REALITY**

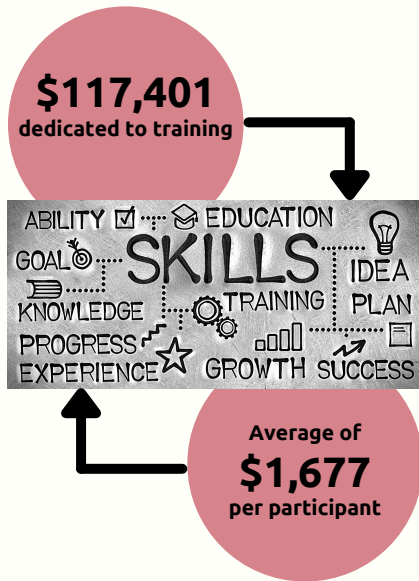


**EMBRACE
TECHNOLOGY**



**MAINTAIN
CONNECTIONS**

Train for Change



One of the biggest shifts we had due to the pandemic was the way we provide service to job seekers. Every year, we serve thousands of participants but that service starts well before someone is actively seeking employment. Through efforts including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant, we maximized job readiness training to help advance skills for customers to obtain employment, pursue industry-recognized certifications, create career pathways, and provide supportive services. In 2020, Schenectady County Connects was able to dedicate more than \$117,400 in financial-aid to 70 customers to support their training endeavors. Our customers are facing extreme economic challenges yet despite all of this, we see hope and opportunity for our community as customers increase their skillsets and prepare for the future workforce.

SUNY Oneonta Internships

The mission of Schenectady County Connects is to support our community by providing services to create a quality workforce and help people achieve self-sustainability. In 2020, our Director was called to support our larger community when she was told that her daughter's college, SUNY Oneonta, had a cohort of 10 Human Development and Family Studies students who were at risk of not being able to graduate in May 2021 unless they acquired an internship.

Through this initiative, Schenectady County Connects will be providing a completely virtual internship experience where these students will have the opportunity to learn about the various human service entities in Schenectady, foundational skills of professionalism in the workplace, and the ins and outs of the services we provide.

The pandemic has taken so much from so many that we couldn't let these 10 students fall short of graduation requirements when we have the ability to help. We are looking forward to this unique opportunity to live our mission and inspire the future workforce.



- 100% Virtual**
-
- Group Supervision**
-
- Guest Speakers**
-
- Metrix Learning**
-
- Client Outreach**
-
- Data Entry & Analysis**
-
- Interviews & Assessments**
-
- Workshop Development**
-
- Program Research**
-
- Partner Collaboration**

Director's Corner

On behalf of our team at Schenectady County Connects, we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. Like many of you, 2020 caught us by storm and unraveled the way we were doing business. While disruption is always rough when you're going through it, as 2020 closes out, we can also reflect back on some of the silver linings and positive developments that came out of the year.

One of the most gratifying parts has been the opportunity to work with our customers to help them navigate what is now a very tired phrase: "the new normal." It's been a learning process for all of us. Adapting and adjusting on the fly yet, it has never been clearer how important things like motivation, attitude, and beliefs are, especially when it comes to forging ahead in difficult times. If anything, 2020 reinforced our core values and beliefs: that people will rise to the occasion when they have the right support, insights, inner drive, and tools to do so. We've had some pretty exciting new developments on our end. In addition to introducing eight new workshops, we are rolling out a series of weekly job clubs to address specific challenges that job seekers are facing - or will be facing soon as they return to their employment search - with practical tips and strategies covering everything from goal setting to landing the right opportunity for you.

We are also excited to offer up a years' worth of free virtual hiring events to our business community to pair them up with job seekers. We are excited about the opportunity that lies ahead in 2021 for our businesses, our job seekers, and our community.

Jennifer Bargy

Director of Workforce Development - Schenectady County Connects



JANUARY

National Mentoring Month

National Vision Board Day
on the 9th

Virtual Hiring Event
on the 27th
(stay tuned for upcoming events!)

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

National Random Acts of
Kindness Day on the 17th

MARCH

National Women's
History Month

Employee Appreciation Day
on the 5th

CONTACT INFORMATION



(518) 344-2737



SchenectadySJTA@dfa.state.ny.us



Stay tuned for our Center's re-opening plans and please call us if you'd like to make an appointment to meet with our staff at Schenectady Works



[@SchenectadyCountyConnects](https://www.facebook.com/SchenectadyCountyConnects)