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WORKFORCE  
INVESTMENT BOARD

NTRPDC

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A quarterly newsletter  
from the Northern Tier Youth Council  
on behalf of the Northern Tier  
Workforce Investment Board

## Youth Success Story: Luke Coolidge

Tioga County workforce staff is proud to recognize Luke Coolidge as our most recent success story.

Luke enrolled in the Youth Program during his 11<sup>th</sup> grade year at Wellsboro High School. At that time, he met with his Career Advisor regularly to develop his resume, explore future career interests using tools like My Next Move, and develop work-readiness skills. In Summer 2013, Luke completed a paid work experience as a laborer at Goodwill. Luke was an excellent employee; he earned a worksite recognition award for his outstanding performance. Luke's immediate supervisor described him as "a very caring, conscientious, hard-working, and diligent young man." These traits helped Luke to earn his high school diploma in 2014.

After high school, Luke actively sought to gain steady employment. He worked hard to update his resume and fill out job applications. Career advisors assisted Luke with difficult online applications, stressing the importance of reference building and cover letter writing. Luke also attended the Job Club workshop to increase his professional network. During this time period, Luke passed his

driver's test. With new license in hand, Luke made his way to Akiko's Floral Arts, having heard from a friend about a job opening. He applied in person for a delivery driver position, and he was hired soon thereafter. Career advisors continue to maintain contact with Luke to ensure that he is adjusting well to his new position and to assist him with any problems that may arise.

Our workforce staff knows that Luke will bring the same diligence and work ethic he demonstrated at Goodwill to his new position at Akiko's Floral Arts. We wish him the best as he continues on his professional journey!



## Towanda High School Students Attend Exhibit

### Medical Career Club Visits Philadelphia's Franklin Institute

On March 27, Towanda Area High School students who are a part of the Medical Careers Club were able to attend an exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia through the use of TANF Development funding.

The informational display "Animals Inside Out" (Body Worlds) explores the biology, zoology, and physiology of some of the world's largest and smallest animals. The exhibit is designed for all ages to gain a better understanding of the anatomy of animals and highlights the differences and similarities between animals and humans.

The students learned about many different careers in health-related fields. In addition, staff from communications and customer service were there to answer any questions.

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student commented, "By getting the chance to go through the Body Worlds exhibit, I was given a first-hand opportunity to learn more about this way of studying the anatomy of animals.

This trip was a great time, and a wonderful way to expose students interested in a medical career to a unique exhibit."

Students were surveyed about their experience. Most students reported that they now want to further their education in the health care field and that this field trip helped them to understand that the choice they already made to go into the health care field is the right one for them.

Mrs. Terry Primrose, Certified School Nurse at Towanda High School, is Co-Advisor for the Medical Careers Club, which serves students in grades 8 through 12. Each member of the Medical Careers Club has expressed a desire to work in the medical or health care field in the future. Each student has taken some kind of biology class and is interested in the sciences.

This field trip was coordinated through the efforts of Towanda School District and the Bradford/Sullivan PA CareerLink®.

**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."  
—Henry David Thoreau**

## Calling All Youth Ages 16-18\*

**Need some extra cash?  
Interested in a job for the summer?**  
Contact your local PA CareerLink® or affiliate site today!



- |                          |              |                       |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bradford County .....    | 570-265-4434 | Sullivan County ..... | 570-928-2120 |
| Susquehanna County ..... | 570-843-1101 | Tioga County .....    | 570-662-8117 |
| Wyoming County .....     | 570-996-2440 |                       |              |

\*Eligibility criteria must be met in order to qualify for job placement.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

## Youth Success Story: Colt Hardic

### Determined to Succeed

Colt Hardic is a bright young man who dropped out of school in tenth grade. He first came to the Trehab/PA CareerLink® affiliate site for assistance with his GED in May 2014. When it came time for GED classes to cease for summer break, Colt chose to enroll in the Youth Program.

Many students who experience a break in their studies don't return, but Colt was determined in the pursuit of his goal and not only enrolled in September but showed dedication over the next several months in class attendance and contact with staff.

Colt began taking steps to work on his future post-GED. He attended a workshop with a representative of the Educational Opportunity Center and decided that he wanted to pursue a career as a respiratory therapist. The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education.

Colt worked with staff at Trehab to prepare for the GED test using the GED Ready practice exams to assess his progress and identify the areas in which he needed extra study. On March 27, a little over a month before his 21<sup>st</sup>

birthday, Colt took and passed the final two sections of his exam. He received his diploma in the mail shortly thereafter.

The Employability Specialist has been helping Colt look into his options, exploring training programs and next steps toward his career goal. She also helped Colt obtain appropriate clothes for job interviews. Colt completed his Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and hopes to further his schooling in the near future.

The Susquehanna County workforce staff are very proud of Colt and his willingness to work for his dreams. The staff wishes him the best, and will continue to be available to him as he continues his journey.

**“If you can dream  
it, you can do it.”**

**–Walt Disney**

**“You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.”**

**–Wayne Gretzky**

**Northern Tier  
Workforce  
Investment Board  
Youth Service  
Providers  
PA CareerLink®  
and Affiliate Sites**

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## The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law on July 22, 2014, is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in 15 years. The law supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### Highlights of the WIOA Reforms for the Youth Program

WIOA outlines a broader youth vision that encourages greater collaboration among employers, high schools, and community colleges to support in-school and out-

of-school youth. WIOA is a great step forward for teens and young adults who are not currently connected to school or work, or who are at risk for becoming disconnected.

### Key Changes

- WIOA increases the age limit of youth that can be served to 24 years old, compared to 21 years under WIA.
- WIOA requires a minimum of 75% of local youth funding to be used for out-of-school youth, compared to 30% under WIA.
- WIOA places a new priority on work-based learning by requiring that at least 20% of local youth

funds be used for work experiences, such as summer and year-round employment, pre-apprenticeships, on-the-job training, internships, or job shadowing.

- WIOA encourages the implementation of career pathway approaches that support post-secondary education and training.

In general, WIOA takes effect on July 1, 2015; however, the planning requirements and common indicators of performance take effect on July 1, 2016, and there are other exceptions specifically noted in the law.

## Northern Tier Youth Council

### Mission

*A system that provides all youth with the skills and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, encourages life-long learning, and ensures the region a skilled workforce.*

As a subcommittee of the Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board, the Youth Council is comprised of members with a special interest or expertise in youth policy. The Youth Council is responsible for:

- Recommending eligible providers of youth activities to the Workforce Investment Board to be awarded grants or contracts on a competitive basis;
- Providing oversight to the eligible providers of youth services in the Northern Tier;
- Coordinating youth activities and leveraging resources to effectively serve the youth residents of the region;
- Developing portions of the local plan related to eligible youth, as determined by the Workforce Investment Board;
- Coordinating youth activities in the Northern Tier; and
- Performing other duties determined to be appropriate by the Workforce Investment Board.

### Members

Chair: Jackie Johnson  
Vice Chair: Brenda Abplanalp  
Annette Donovan  
Charity Field  
Elizabeth Frankhouser  
Tara LaFrance  
Kim Mapes  
Lori Rahn  
Brenda Roberts  
Phil Smiley  
Theresa Steele  
Penne Watkins  
Debra Wivell

The Northern Tier Youth Council meets quarterly (in February, May, July, and October) at the PA CareerLink® offices, 312 Main Street, Suite 1, Towanda.