

# LAUNCH!

YOUR SUCCESS

Serving the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania

## Sullivan County LAUNCH! Success Story: Talon

Talon enrolled in Sullivan County's Trehab's WIOA Out-of-School Youth Program in February 2025 with a clear goal: to pass the HiSET® exam and move forward with his education and career aspirations. His journey began after he made the difficult decision to leave high school at the age of 18 while attending 11th grade at Sullivan County High School.

Rather than allowing his past circumstances to define his future, Talon took the initiative to return to education and pursue a second opportunity. Through the support and guidance available through the WIOA Out-of-School Youth Program, Talon remained focused on his educational goal.

Talon worked with Trehab's HiSET Instructor, Cindy Hessey, to prepare for the exam, strengthen his academic skills, and build the confidence necessary to successfully complete his testing. His commitment, perseverance, and willingness to continue working toward his goal ultimately paid off.

On August 28, 2026, Talon successfully completed his HiSET testing—a significant accomplishment that represents not only the completion of an educational goal, but also his determination to create new opportunities for his future.

Talon's success is an excellent example of how perseverance, support, and a commitment to personal growth can help young adults overcome barriers and achieve their goals. His accomplishment demonstrates



*On August 28, 2026, Talon successfully completed his HiSET testing and achieved his goal of earning a high school equivalency.*

that it is never too late to return to education and take the next step toward a brighter future.

Congratulations to Talon on this outstanding achievement! Trehab is proud to have supported him along the way.

Visit [www.launchyoursuccessNT.org](http://www.launchyoursuccessNT.org) to launch your journey!



## Sixteen Youths Complete Bradford County Summer Program

Bradford County Action's summer work activities provided meaningful employment, academic enrichment, and career exploration opportunities for local youth ages 14 to 20. Through their work placements, youth gained hands-on employment experience while developing important workplace skills, learning professional expectations, and gaining exposure to a variety of career fields.

### Worksite Placements

The 16 youth participants were placed at 10 different worksites, which included: Canton School District, Blessings Daycare, Northeast Bradford School District IT Department, Doggie Doo Boutique and Bakery, Hewitt Farm, Moppets on Mulberry, Bradford Hills, Keystone Theatre, Monroeton Public Library, and Bradford County Action.

These diverse placements allowed youth to experience different types of work environments and explore potential career interests while developing responsibility, communication, and teamwork; learning

to keep a weekly timesheet; and honing other essential workplace skills.

### Academic Enrichment Activities

In addition to their worksite experiences, youth participated in Academic Enrichment activities every Thursday. The activities were designed to expand participants' knowledge, expose them to career and educational opportunities, and provide real-world learning experiences outside of the traditional workplace.

Throughout the summer, youth participated in a variety of educational tours, presentations, career exploration activities, and community experiences, including tours of Lycoming College, American Rescue Workers, Susquehanna County Career & Technology Center (SCCTC), Susquehanna County Historical Society, Bradford Hills, Bradford County Correctional Facility, and Highland Chocolates. Workers also spent time at Mt. Pisgah State Park, Riverfront Park,

and PA CareerLink®. In addition, youth listened to employer and banking presentations and used virtual reality goggles to explore careers.

### Workforce and Career Readiness

The program also incorporated structured activities focused on preparing youth for future employment and career success. Participants worked on Resume Development (how to create and improve resumes that highlight their education, skills, experiences, and accomplishments); Soft Skills (developing communication, teamwork, professionalism, problem-solving, and workplace etiquette); Financial Literacy (exploring topics related to managing money, budgeting, saving, financial responsibility, and making informed financial decisions); and Time Management (strategies for organizing responsibilities, prioritizing tasks, meeting deadlines, and balancing work and personal commitments).

# Local Partners Team Up to Bring Career Opportunities to Tioga County Students

Develop Tioga is teaming with the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC), the Northern Tier Industry & Education Consortium (NTIEC), and other local agencies to give area high school students opportunities to explore careers through fun, hands-on experiences.

Develop Tioga's annual High School Career Day events will bring students together with local employers and professionals from a variety of industries. Students will have the opportunity to try new

things, ask questions, and learn more about different career paths and what it takes to get started.

The first event, Manufacturing & Trades Career Day, will be held October 1, 2026, followed by Health & Human Services Day on November 19. High school students from Galeton, Canton, Troy, and all Tioga County high schools are encouraged to attend and take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about careers that may align with their interests and goals.

Registration is open for students and vendors. Local businesses and organizations are invited to get involved and share what they do, the careers they offer, and the different ways students can prepare for their future. For more information, please contact Anne McNeal at [amcneal@developitioga.org](mailto:amcneal@developitioga.org).

We're excited to bring our community together to help students explore what's possible and discover where their interests can take them!



NTRPDC invites you to attend:

## Pre-Apprenticeship Learning Session

In partnership with the PA Apprenticeship and Training Office and Southern Tioga School District



Event Date: 10/23/2026

Time: 10:30 am



Please register for this event by scanning the QR code or by clicking below:

**[Event Registration Link](#)**

Anyone interested in learning about pre-apprenticeship is welcome!

# Northern Tier Business–Education Partnership Roundup

This section showcases several of the 2026 programs and events sponsored by Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission's (NTRPDC's) Northern Tier Business–Education Partnership (NTBEP).



*Brie Homer*



*Chauntel Nicosia*

## Welcoming a New School Year and Our Career Coaches!

The Northern Tier Business–Education Partnership (NTBEP) is excited to welcome the 2026–2027 school year and our team of dedicated career coaches! As students return to the classroom, our coaches are ready to help them explore career possibilities, connect with local employers, and build the skills and experiences they need for their futures. We are especially pleased to welcome two new coaches to the team: Brianne Homer, who will serve Northeast Bradford School District, and Chauntel Nicosia, who will serve Troy Area and Montrose Area school districts.

We also welcome back our returning career coaches. Amanda Wakely will continue serving Athens Area and Sayre Area school districts; Barb Knapp will serve Northern Tioga and Wellsboro Area school districts; Cindy DeHaven will continue working with Wyalusing Valley School District; and Pat Chappell will return to Southern Tioga School District. We are grateful for the continued dedication and commitment our returning coaches bring to the students and schools they serve.

Throughout the school year, NTBEP career coaches work with students, educators, and employers to provide career awareness, career exploration, and work-based learning opportunities. From classroom activities and career events to employer visits, job shadows, field trips, and other hands-on experiences, coaches help students connect what they learn in school to the world of work. We look forward to another successful year of helping students discover their interests, explore career pathways, and connect with opportunities throughout the Northern Tier.

## NTBEP Awards More Than \$48,000 in Mini Grants to Promote Career Readiness

The NTBEP funded 17 career education initiatives in school districts across the five-county NTRPDC region through its 2025–2026 Mini Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to promote career pathways and provide career awareness

and work-based learning activities for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The program received 30 applications. The 17 projects selected for funding together enabled

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*Students from Susquehanna Community School District worked on elementary playground upgrades as part of their employer-mentored construction career exploration through an NTBEP mini grant.*

students to explore occupations in industries including advanced manufacturing, construction, hospitality, financial services, healthcare, energy, and digital technology. Participating school districts included Blue Ridge, Canton, Forest City, Northern Tioga, Southern Tioga, Sullivan County, Susquehanna Community, Towanda, and Wellsboro.

In addition to awareness of career pathways, students gained career readiness skills such as financial and digital literacy; communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving; teamwork and time management; resilience and perseverance; and workplace professionalism.

Collectively, the grants impacted more than 1,975 students, 30 educators, 30 local businesses and organizations, and 261 families.

## **NTBEP Sponsors Oil & Gas Industry Tour**

In May 2026, students from Northern and Southern Tioga school districts, along with their chaperones, participated in a drilling site tour hosted by Repsol and sponsored by NTBEP. The opportunity was designed to help students explore careers in the oil and gas industry and connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities.

Nine students toured the site. The visit featured involvement from Repsol employees in various career paths to learn about specific jobs in the industry. Having first-hand conversations allowed students to gain insight into the education and skills necessary to attain employment and thrive in the oil and gas industry.

Amanda Capone, Career Pathways Coordinator at Southern Tioga School District, said, "Our students got a lot out of the tour and were still talking about it when they got back to school." Along with students, Repsol also hosted legislators at the event.

Lynse West, Repsol Community Relations Supervisor, conveyed that she hoped the tour provided helpful insight into the company's activities, safety practices, environmental consciousness, and commitment to responsible development in the region.

Special thanks to Lynse West for coordinating the event, and to all Repsol participants. Partnerships like this help students better understand workforce opportunities available within the region and make informed decisions about their futures.





*Towanda Area School District's own Tristan Kobbe, a high school senior, was on hand to demonstrate the Franklin Township VFD rescue truck.*

## NTBEP Brings Vehicle Career Fair to Towanda Elementary

NTBEP sponsored a vehicle career fair in May 2026 to introduce third-grade students at Towanda Elementary School to jobs involving big trucks and other special vehicles. More than 110 students were able to learn from seasoned operators about how they rely on their vehicles to do their jobs.

Ten local organizations participated and brought a service vehicle:

- Guthrie Healthcare – ambulance
- Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority – garbage truck
- PennDOT – dump truck
- Bradford County Conservation District (BCCD) – truck and no-till seeder
- Towanda Borough – vacuum truck and the “Black Knight” Street Sweeper
- Williams Ford – F-150 and a Ford Escape
- Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department – rescue truck
- Frontier/Verizon – boom truck
- PA Game Commission – pickup truck
- Towanda School District’s Security Resource Officer – police car

All organizations supplied personnel to operate the vehicle and share information about their job, how they became the operator of their vehicle, and how they use their vehicle for their job. Towanda Area School District’s own Tristan Kobbe, a high school senior, was on hand to demonstrate the Franklin Township fire equipment. Presenters answered many fun questions from the students.

The third-graders especially enjoyed learning facts such as the weight of an empty garbage truck (37,000 pounds), the cost of a new dump truck, how much seed the BCCD seeder can hold, and why there is a barrier and bars on the windows in the back seat of the police vehicle.

In addition to entertaining and enriching the students, having these organizations participate in the Career Fair helped educators document compliance with PA Career Education Standard 13.3.11. Many thanks to the participating organizations as well as Sonnie Siegfried, Elementary School Counselor; NTBEP Career Coaches Donna Yale and Jessica Pepper; and the third-grade teaching team at Towanda Elementary for all their hard work to coordinate the event.

## NTBEP Sponsors 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade Career Fair in Towanda



Art, Music, Physical Education, STEM, and Wellness are known as “cycle” classes at Towanda Junior High. That is, for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, those classes do not run for the whole semester or school year. Instead, students cycle through the various topics. Consequently, students may overlook those fields when thinking about careers.

The May 2026 Towanda “Cycle” Career Fair, sponsored by NTBEP, enabled 7<sup>th</sup>-graders to learn from real people in careers related to the cycle classes. Five professionals generously gave their time to share

with students their education and career path, what their business or organization does, and what a typical workday is like in their line of work. The 7<sup>th</sup>-graders heard from Julie Sturzen, Registered Dietitian; Kaitlyn Cooper, Sports Trainer; Tim Yale, Supply Chain System Analyst with Guthrie Medical Group and Towanda Hospital; Trisha Elwood, General Manager of the Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society; and David Yale, retired former proprietor of Yale’s Music Shop. Approximately 125 students participated in the fair.

To ensure plenty of opportunity for student interaction, groups of about 25 students rotated among classrooms to listen to brief remarks by an individual presenter and then ask questions. The students were able to learn which careers might require more education and which types of careers could start upon high school graduation. The students also learned what the presenters liked or disliked most about their jobs.

Most students enjoyed having these guest speakers in their classes and learning more about their interesting careers. The program also enabled educators to demonstrate compliance with PA Career Education Standard 13.3.11. Thanks to the enthusiastic, outgoing presenters, along with the cycle class teachers and Towanda’s NTBEP Career Coach, Donna Yale, for making the career education event possible.



*Matty with his  
Trehab Career Advisor,  
Michelle Lane*

## Feedback from Wyoming County Trehab Summer Intern

“This summer, I had the opportunity to work with Trehab through the Workforce Summer Program. During my time there, I gained valuable work experience, learned new skills, and got to meet and work with some great people. I really enjoyed being part of the team and getting a better understanding of what it’s like to have a job and work in a professional environment.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity Trehab gave me this summer, and I feel like the experience will help me in the future as I continue through school and start thinking about my career.”

~Matty, Summer Intern



## SCCTC Launches New Diesel Technology Program

The Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center (SCCTC) is proud to announce the introduction of our new Diesel Technology program, an exciting opportunity that will prepare students for rewarding careers in the transportation, heavy equipment, and diesel industries.

The development of this program represents more than the addition of another course of study—it represents what can happen when a school, local businesses, industry partners, and our community come together with a shared vision for our students. There is a growing

need for highly skilled diesel technicians, and we are committed to providing our students with the hands-on training, technical knowledge, and real-world experiences necessary to meet that demand.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Commonwealth Charitable Management Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains, Devon Energy, and Sherwood Freightliner for their generous support and commitment to this program. Their investment in our students is an investment in the future workforce of Susquehanna County and the surrounding region.

Partnerships like these allow the SCCTC to provide students with opportunities that may not otherwise be possible. Industry support helps us develop modern training environments, provide access to appropriate equipment, and ensure that our programs reflect the skills employers are seeking.

We are grateful to our community and industry partners for believing in our students and believing in the mission of the SCCTC. Together, we are not only preparing students for careers, but we are also helping build the skilled workforce and stronger communities of tomorrow.

# Eleven Teens Complete the Susquehanna County Summer Program

This past summer, 11 Susquehanna County teens from 15 to 17 years old participated with Trehab Workforce in its Summer Youth Program, gaining a combination of educational and work experience.

The teens completed short-term work experiences across the county in career paths of interest to them. Employment spanned the fields of health, food service, retail, arts, bicycle repair, and custodial service. Throughout the work experiences the youths actively focused on improving their job-readiness skills in areas such as timeliness, task efficiency, and communication.

The work experiences were complemented by classroom sessions on resume-building, post-secondary education funding sources, supportive adult programs, and financial literacy. Participants heard from local business owners, emergency responders, and law enforcement personnel on how they started their careers and/or companies as well as marketing strategies for staying competitive.

The teens, their parents, worksite supervisors, and Trehab Career Advisors worked hand in hand to make this program a success. Susquehanna County Trehab Workforce received several reports

of a student being an ideal match for their job placement, and everyone was satisfied with the results. Several of the youths have been encouraged to return to their employers next summer, and a few have been recommended for permanent employment.

In addition, four Susquehanna County individuals aged 17 to 21 obtained their high school equivalency this year through the HiSET® program, with two more nearing completion. Two of the graduates gained permanent employment as well! Kudos to the HiSET program and these young adults seeking to improve their life situations.

## Employer Spotlight: Woodland Biomass Innovations

This summer, Woodland Biomass Innovations, based in Wellsboro, Tioga County, partnered with our LAUNCH! Your Success program to provide two local youth with meaningful internship opportunities in marketing and legal operations. As a growing startup, Woodland Biomass gave both interns the unique opportunity to contribute to real projects while gaining hands-on experience in a professional setting.



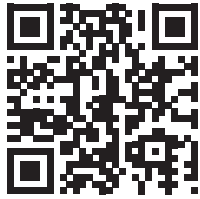
Founder Luca Pandolfi described the experience:

"We've had the pleasure of hosting two interns this term: one focusing on marketing and one on legal operations, who have both been instrumental in helping us build our startup from the ground up.

"Our marketing intern has gained hands-on experience by crafting core marketing content, developing graphics, and managing our social media presence—tasks that are vital for any business, regardless of scale. Meanwhile, our legal

intern has received direct exposure to corporate legal practices and contract development, working under the guidance of an experienced attorney. Beyond the specific technical skills, they've both had a front-row seat to the daily realities of launching a company. We see immense value in giving young people this kind of practical, immersive work experience; it helps them build a versatile professional toolkit that will serve them well in any career path they choose."

# Northern Tier Workforce Development Board LAUNCH! Your Success Service Providers



PA CareerLink® and Affiliate Sites

[www.launchyoursuccessnt.org](http://www.launchyoursuccessnt.org)

## Bradford County

Bradford County Action  
500 William Street  
Towanda, PA 18848  
570-265-4434

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[ahollenback@bradfordcountyaction.org](mailto:ahollenback@bradfordcountyaction.org)

## Susquehanna County

Trehab, Inc.  
1302 Main Street  
Susquehanna, PA 18847  
570-853-1103

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
or  
14 Public Avenue  
Montrose, PA  
570-278-5201  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[pderose@trehab.org](mailto:pderose@trehab.org)

## Tioga County

Trehab, Inc.  
42 Plaza Lane  
Wellsboro, PA 16901  
570-724-1939

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[brepard@trehab.org](mailto:brepard@trehab.org)



## Sullivan County

Trehab, Inc.  
7406 Route 487, Suite 3  
Mildred, PA 18632  
570-928-9668

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[theess@trehab.org](mailto:theess@trehab.org)

## Wyoming County

Trehab, Inc.  
102 Warren Street  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
570-996-2440

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[mlane@trehab.org](mailto:mlane@trehab.org)

Start your LAUNCH! adventure today—  
call or e-mail the service provider for the  
county where you live.

# Northern Tier Youth Committee

## Mission

A system that provides all youth and young adults 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 Development Board, the Youth Committee is comprised of members with a special interest or expertise in youth policy. The Youth Committee is responsible for:

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

<https://northerntier.org/workforce-development-board/>

## Membership

Krista Abresch  
Intellectual Disabilities  
Quality Manager  
Bradford County Human Services

Hannah Allis  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Counselor  
Pennsylvania Office of Vocational  
Rehabilitation

Roy Dalton  
Red Rock Site Director  
Adams & Associates/  
Red Rock Job Corps

Jennifer Farley  
Administrator of Educational  
Services  
Northern Tier Career Center

John Gazzillo  
Executive Director  
Susquehanna County Career &  
Technology Center

Kristin Hamilton  
Executive Director  
Develop Tioga

Jackie Johnson  
Community Member

Gary Martell  
Director  
Northern Tier Career Center

Randi Morse  
District Executive Director  
RVR YMCA

Tammi Mowry  
Financial Aid Director  
Susquehanna County Career &  
Technology Center

Ashley Muchler  
Curriculum Specialist  
BLaST IU17-Williamsport

Lori Rahn  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
Bradford County

Breanna Repard  
Workforce Development Director  
The Trehab Center

Penne Watkins  
Executive Director  
Bradford County Action

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Bonnie Warner, Equal Opportunity Officer  
[eoofficer@northerntier.org](mailto:eoofficer@northerntier.org)

570-265-9103 or toll-free 888-868-8800 / TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
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