

# WORKFORCEBUZZ

NY ASSOCIATION OF TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

SEPTEMBER 2019 | ISSUE 20

## IN THIS ISSUE

### MEMBER CORNER

**Workforce Development Awareness Week September 22-29**

**Cuomo to visit Utica today for announcement**

**Office of Workforce Development Announces Consolidated Funding Application Workshops Across the State**

**Mike Lefebvre Joins the Office of Workforce Development as Deputy Director**

**NYATEP Fall Conference Early Bird Pricing Ends September 30**

**NYATEP Now Accepting Applications for the 2019-2020 Policy and Advocacy Academy**

**NYATEP Attends EMSI2019 Lead & Engage Conference: How to Use Labor Market Data Like a Pro**

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**Training the Future AI Workforce in Troy, New York**

**Lack Of Child Care Hurting Workforce**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**GLOW With Your Hands - 9/24**

**NYC Wine Down - 10/10**

**Policy Academy Applications Due - 10/11**

**Fall Conference - October 28-30 in Rochester, NY**

## Gov. Cuomo's Office of Workforce Development Declares September 22-29 Workforce Development Awareness Week

NYATEP is excited to share that the Office of Workforce Development has announced this week as Workforce Development Awareness Week!

With events happening across the state, the goal is to raise awareness of the innovative programs and hardworking professionals helping to grow New York State's regional workforce while educating businesses on available funds to support growth.

On behalf of all of our NYATEP members who work tirelessly to promote the need to #investinskillsNY we're happy and proud to show your impact across the state.

Tell us your workforce story on Twitter by using #investinskillsNY!



Find us here:  

# OBSERVER-DISPATCH

## Cuomo to visit Utica today for announcement

UTICA — Gov. Andrew Cuomo will visit the area today to make an announcement at 3:30 p.m. at SUNY Poly in Utica.

The announcement is separate from a \$3 million investment in The State University of New York's (SUNY) Apprenticeship Program, state officials announced in a statement. The funding will help expand apprenticeship programs in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, information technology and other growth industries, state officials said.

Mohawk Valley Community College is expected to coordinate the effort along with other SUNY schools. According to the statement, this would be the first Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) award to come from the Governor's \$175 million Workforce Development Initiative.

"We are reimagining workforce development in an innovative way to meet the needs of employers who are looking to hire for jobs available now as well as those that will be filled by the next generation," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul in a statement. "The \$175 million Workforce Development Initiative will help to ensure we close the skills gap and provide New Yorkers with job training and education they need to thrive in the 21st century.

This new expansion of the SUNY Apprenticeship Program with nearly \$3 million in funding at Mohawk Valley Community College will support training programs that provide students with a pipeline to jobs with local employers.

"The Workforce Development Initiative engages the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) to support strategic efforts that meet current workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance the flexibility of local workforce entities and expand workplace learning opportunities, according to the statement. The initiative also supports efforts to improve the economic security of those who often face barriers to career advancements.

The launch coincides with Workforce Development Awareness Week (September 22-29). Hochul and Director of Workforce Development Madhuri Kommareddi will lead workshops at locations in Western New York, Central New York, the Southern Tier, North Country and the Mohawk Valley.

The SUNY apprenticeship program was launched in 2018. Since that time, more than 40 employers have participated and more than 750 individuals have benefitted from apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, according to the statement.



# Office of Workforce Development Announces Consolidated Funding Application Workshops Across the State

The Governor's Workforce Development Office has advised they will host informational workshops regarding the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) across the state next week.

Announced earlier this year, the Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) will invest \$175 million for workforce development to support strategic regional efforts that meets businesses' short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, enhance the flexibility and adaptability of local workforce entities, expand apprenticeships and address the long-term needs of growing industries.

Interested applicants should attend the workshop to learn about the application process, eligibility criteria, and how to prepare an application to be able to access this important funding.

**Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 1pm: Western NY CFA Workshop at Northland Training Center, Buffalo.** Details and RSVP here: [CLICK LINK](#)

**Wednesday, Sept. 25th at 12:30pm: Mohawk Valley CFA Workshop at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica.** Details and RSVP here: [CLICK LINK](#)

**Thursday, Sept. 26th at 10am: Southern Tier CFA Workshop at Binghamton University, Vestal.** Details and RSVP: [CLICK LINK](#)

**Thursday, Sept. 26th at 2pm: Central NY CFA Workshop at Onondaga Community College, Syracuse.** Details and RSVP here: [CLICK LINK](#)

**Monday, Sept. 30th at 10am: North Country CFA Workshop at Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh.** Details and RSVP: [CLICK LINK](#)

**Don't see a workshop near you?**

**Visit the WDI website for detailed webinars on the CFA!**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

## Mike Lefebvre Joins the Office of Workforce Development as Deputy Director



In September, Mike was appointed by Governor Cuomo to be Deputy Director for Workforce Development in the Governor's office. Prior to his appointment, Mike served as the Executive Vice President for the Division of Public Policy, Planning and Incentives at Empire State Development (ESD) and oversees policy development, intergovernmental affairs, research and analysis, and the administration of many of ESD's financial incentive programs. Recently, Mike led an interagency team to develop Governor Cuomo's new Workforce Development Initiative. He is also ESD's representative on the State Workforce Investment Board, serving on its Economic Development Committee.

Before returning to ESD in 2016, Mike held leadership positions as Chief Financial Officer at the New York State Department of Law and Executive Director at the New York State Senate. In addition to nearly two decades of experience in State operations and policy, Mike also worked at General Electric's Research and Development Center in Niskayuna, NY and served overseas in U.S. Air Force.

He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University at Albany and lives in Albany with his wife Janine and two daughters, Allison and Laura.

For more information on the WDI, please visit: <https://www.ny.gov/workforcedevelopment>



OCTOBER 28-30 | ROCHESTER, NY

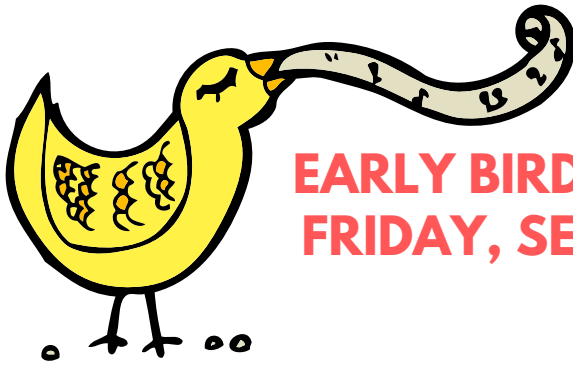
# PARTNERS FOR WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION

2019 FALL CONFERENCE

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY

**NYATEP**  
Voice - Knowledge - Progress  
For Workforce Development

**EDC**  
NEW YORK STATE  
Economic Development Council



**EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**CLICK TO  
REGISTER**

Join over 500 professionals in workforce & economic development and education, business leaders, and key state leaders for the 33rd annual fall conference.

We invite you to join the New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals and the New York State Economic Development Council for a unique event to re-imagine the workforce system in NY, to learn from regional and national experts and to network with leaders in economic & workforce development, post-secondary education and job training, business and government.

## VIEW FULL AGENDA

**This year's #Partners4WorkNY conference will address:**

### National Best Practices

- Federal Reserve System's Investing in America's Workforce
- A Different Way to Do Workforce Development with First Step Staffing

### Partnerships for Workforce Transformation

- 2020 Census Recruitment Opportunities and Strategies
- What is a Workforce Development Board?
- NYC's Customized Training Program: Engaging Employers for Successful Incumbent Worker Training
- 21st Century Employability Skills

### New Ways to Work

- LadderzUp: Creating a Local Public-Public Partnership
- Roaring to the Finish: A Degree Completion Effort
- How Local Workforce Areas Are Using Metrix Learning to Support Online Skill Development

### Trends in Economic Development

- Non-traditional Factors in Evaluating Economic Activity
- What is an Industrial Development Agency?
- Economic Inclusion and Investing in People

**\*Session topics are subject to change. Stay tuned there will be more content added as it is confirmed!\***

# NYATEP Now Accepting Applications for the 2019-2020 Policy and Advocacy Academy

The New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP) through their new Level Up NY training initiative, is thrilled to announce that applications are now available for the 2019-2020 Workforce Academy for Policy and Advocacy.

Through this intensive, informative, and fun training you will learn the ins and outs of federal & state political, legislative and budgetary processes and a candid take on the politics in New York. This year's Academy will recruit up to 30 members from across New York for a three-month immersive, professional development. In addition to the sessions from November through January, participants will engage in experiential learning through legislative visits.

## What will you learn in the Academy?

- Learn invaluable, REAL advocacy skills
- Learn how the Federal, State and local legislative systems really work
- Grow your network of workforce colleagues from Upstate and Downstate
- Participate in at a minimum of two legislative visits to put your skills into practice

## Who should apply to participate in the Academy?

Mid-high level workforce professionals (i.e. 3-5 years' experience; serving in a leadership position within your organization; will have the opportunity to influence the policy-engagement at your organization). To date, more than 200 professionals from 115 organizations have participated in the Academy. This is a great opportunity to network and grow your professional learning.

## Timeline for Applications:

**October 11: Completed Application Due (via the application link)**

**October 22: Class Selection Notifications Sent (via email)**

**November 18-19: Opening Session (in Albany, NY)**

**Completed electronic applications are due no later than 4:00PM on October 11th.**

## 2019-2020 Workforce Academy for Policy and Advocacy Scheduled Session Dates:

### November 18-19, 2019: Kick Off Retreat

Location: NYATEP Offices, 540 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany

November 18th 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Introductions to the Academy; Current Issues Facing Workforce; Overview of Project Teams and Schedule of Activities

November 19th 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Seminar-Basics of Advocacy and Federal Policy

### December 16-17, 2019: State and Local Workforce Advocacy

Location: NYATEP Office, 540 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany and NYS Capitol

December 16 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Seminar- Overview of State Advocacy

December 17 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Legislative Prep and State Legislative Visits

### January 28, 2020 Advocates Town Hall & Class Graduation

Location: TBD, New York City

A special invitation-only event to provide the latest in federal, state, and local workforce policy for Academy Alumni, current academy members, and special guests. This event will provide attendees with an advocacy refresher and introduce them to the scheduled opportunities to utilize their skills in Washington, Albany, and across New York. The Town Hall will also include a graduation ceremony for this year's class.

### February 3-5, 2020- Optional: National Skills Coalition Summit/Federal Legislative Visits

Location: Washington, D.C. Up to three participants will be randomly selected to attend with registration costs covered by NYATEP.

CLICK TO APPLY



## NYATEP Attends EMSI2019 Lead & Engage Conference: How to Use Labor Market Data Like a Pro



Last week, Madison Hubner, Manager of Policy & Innovation at NYATEP, attended **Emsi2019 Lead & Engage Conference: How to Use Labor Market Data Like a Pro** from September 16-18, 2019, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Emsi2019 brought together dozens of data users from business, higher education, and economic & workforce development for two and a half days of training, problem-solving, and collaborating with their peers and the Emsi team.

After contracting with EMSI in June, NYATEP saw this opportunity to learn more about the software and how to use it to better serve member needs. New York workforce was proudly represented by Louise McLoughlin and Stephanie Renino from Dutchess County Workforce Development Board and Sylvie Nelson from North Country Workforce Development Board. This event was an awesome opportunity to see what other states are doing with labor market data. If you are interested in best practices, the state of Colorado has been doing some impressive stuff!

NYATEP is now trained on how to provide regional economic reports for all across New York State.

We are excited to bring this new functionality to our members and partners! EMSI representative will be in attendance at the 2019 Fall Conference if you want to learn more about the available products.

[Learn more about EMSI here](#)





# IndustryWeek®

## Training the Future AI Workforce in Troy, New York

*The city is creating an AI ecosystem in the form of an Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence.*

Adrienne M. Selko | Sep 16, 2019

Good ideas always have interesting starting points.

As Bob Bedard, president of deFactor Global, was expanding his business offerings to include artificial intelligence (AI) he looked around his surroundings and realized that Troy, New York was doing a lot of research in this area.

While private businesses such as GE's Lighting Research Center, located in Troy, and area public educational institutions, such as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and SUNY (Hudson Valley Community College in Troy) were all engaged in this field, there wasn't a coordinated effort.

"I could envision an opportunity to create an ecosystem that could reach from Troy all the way to Albany," explains Bedard. "We have the talent now and we have the potential to develop more in the future," said Bedard.

Wanting to take an active role in bringing this vision to reality, Bedard approached a variety of parties who could benefit from a dedicated resource to AI and got buy-in. So, he created the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence, which is a two million facility that will be located in downtown Troy.

The center has three main goals;

- Create an AI ecosystem
- Define and drive AI Capital District Strategy: A world leader in AI Embedded in hardware
- Align surrounding universities' AI strategy with their core competency – An AI economy will need experts in all areas, not just technical.

The center has teamed up with a variety of companies, ranging from Fortune 500 to small companies. And educational institutions have joined the effort including, RPI, University of Albany, Siena, Hudson Valley Community College, Union College and others. The area's economic workforce development organizations are on board as well.

Perhaps part of the interest is based on the characteristic of the town, which has a long history of coming up with inventive ideas for industrial uses. In fact, in the early 1800s, the region was the second largest producer of steel. That spirit has been reignited, says Bedard. "Troy, like Brooklyn, is reclaiming its heritage and is also becoming a hip city with all of the amenities, that attracts younger workers."

And a large part of what attracts younger workers is career opportunities. The center will provide that. It will facilitate research, offer internships and support start-ups. It aims to "foster the development of an AI-technology hub that will complement other industry hubs, including video gaming, nanotechnology and life sciences.

"Understanding the role of AI and how it will transform the workplace is central to the mission of the Center. "Often people think of AI as taking over jobs, or as a threat to humans, in general. We need to separate out that view of AI and focus on what it can do now which is improve productivity. Over the past five years, I have seen the light go on as companies realize the potential of AI."

In addition to productivity, Bedard says that AI will improve operational efficiencies, safety, skill development and job satisfaction.

Perhaps the job satisfaction will come from the fact that as robots take over the repetitive and less imaginative part of jobs, humans are then free to perform higher-value tasks. Much has been written about the collaborative nature of man and machine.

Of course, there is still the fear that automation will replace jobs, but a recent study from the World Economic Forum, "The Future of Jobs 2018," showed that taking into account jobs lost to AI and the new jobs that are needed, the growth of artificial intelligence could create 58 million net new jobs in the next few years.

Economically the effect of AI, as measured by a PwC survey is that IA, robots, and smart automation technology will contribute \$15 trillion to global GDP by 2030.

Politicians are also jumping into the discussion and positioning the U.S. as the top source of all things AI. On Sept. 9, Michael Kratsios, who is also deputy assistant to the president at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said the U.S. has eight of the top 13 universities for AI. He also said the U.S. had more AI companies and spends more on venture capital funding on AI, than its competitors.

As AI continues its ascent in the business world, Troy, and Bedard, have read the tea leaves correctly by positioning the area as a hub for AI. "The ultimate goal of this center is to drive economic growth and jobs," says Bedard. "We want to aggregate AI research for this district and the state as a whole creating a network for this essential field."

Read the complete article here



# The Post-Journal

Southwestern New York's Leading Newspaper

## Lack Of Child Care Hurting Workforce

MAYVILLE — Workforce development in the county is being impeded by the lack of quality child care.

That is why the Chautauqua County Child Care Workforce Development Initiative has been started, said Beth Starks, Jamestown Community College early childhood education specialist and Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center executive director. Starks spoke to both the Chautauqua County Legislature Human Services and Planning and Economic Development committees about the need for quality child care.

Starks said Wilfred Rosas, Dunkirk mayor, and George Borrello, county executive, has started meeting with businesses to discuss the need for child care. She said there are no licensed child care centers in the city of Dunkirk. She added that a roundtable meeting was held in Dunkirk with more than 35 businesses attending to discuss the issue.

Following the Dunkirk roundtable meeting, she said roundtable meetings were also held in Mayville and Jamestown with around 25 businesses attending. She added foundations and schools have also been involved in the initiative.

“We discovered this is a problem throughout the county,” she said.

Starks said by meeting with businesses they have learned companies are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining employees because of the lack of child care. Through the roundtable meetings five goals were identified to possibly alleviate the problem.

The first goal is to increase capacity of the number of slots available for children by incentivizing the starting of new child care centers and in-home licensed providers. The second goal is to explore employer benefits and employee needs through a subsidy or voucher. The third goal is to expand early childhood workforce. The fourth goal is to making an improved child care system sustainable by included both the private and public sector. The fifth goal is to increase the quality and awareness of economic development issues.

One of the aspects of the child care initiative is to start an affordability plan that would provide child care fringe benefits through employers that continues the sliding fee scale available via child care subsidies through the state Department of Health and Human Services.

The plan would allow employees to accept raises and more hours to earn more income while still receiving benefits from the state for child care. Starks said a lot of employees will not accept raises or more hours to increase their income because they are worried about losing the funding they receive from the state for child care.

A consolidated funding application to receive funding through the state Regional Economic Development Council program has been submitted. Starks said Gov. Andrew Cuomo is now calling on each of the 10 Regional Economic Development Councils to consider child care needs when it comes to workforce development.

Starks said they are not asking the Chautauqua County Legislature for anything, but want county officials to consider child care needs when making future decisions.

Read the complete article here 



## Upcoming Member Information, Events & Funding Opportunities

### Join NYATEP for the next NYC "Wine Down" Happy Hour Networking Event

5:00-7:00  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

**VERLAINE**

110 RIVINGTON STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10002



LIGHT FARE WILL BE SERVED

DRINK SPECIALS INCLUDE:

LYCHEE MARTINIS  
SOUTHEAST RED AND ROSE SANGRIA  
HOUSE WINES  
MIXED DRINKS

\$7

NARRAGANSETT BEER

\$4

RSVP to Evelyn Ortiz at [eortiz@nyatep.org](mailto:eortiz@nyatep.org) or  
by clicking [HERE](#)