Workforce Development Series Announcement

*“Everyone Gets a Job in Hamden: Exploring Career and Technical Educational Opportunities”*

*First Sessions Announced:*

Hamden’s Department of Economic and Neighborhood Development is pleased to announce the first two panels that are part of the new workforce series titled, “Everyone Gets a Job; Exploring Career and Technical Educational Opportunities”. This series will be focused on the workforce readiness of Hamden residents, particularly children entering or leaving middle school and entering high school. The series will include workshops on the job and career opportunities in the major economic sectors in Hamden and in the region.

Panelists will be from the private sector employers and educators. Panelists will discuss career options, educational or training requirements and earning potential.

The first sessions will be:

1. Health Care Thursday January 24th at 630 at the Miller Senior Center at Miller Library. This panel will include employers from Eldercare facilities, Home Health Care, Radiology from Yale New Haven Hospital and the Quinnipiac Valley Health district.
2. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math): Tuesday, February 5th at 630 pm in the Friends Room at the Miller Library. Panelists will be speaking about Hamden ‘s new STEM academy, Gateway Community College, Sema4, a Science and engineering company and Sacred Heart Academy of Hamden

In late November and early December, two information sessions for parents were held at Miller and Brundage Libraries. Those sessions explored the current job market and some important information about career opportunities at Hamden High School. The parent session was videotaped for those who couldn’t attend. “We encourage residents who want to learn about these important sessions to watch the videos to get important information about this series”, stated Dale Kroop, Director.

The link to the Video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFmUnzO-l-I&index=6&list=PLmA_Ihd-BqPCjCSKS_U9Zq6OACl7C0sgR&t=2542s>

These workshops will bring awareness and connect current business workforce needs with all educational and training opportunities. Workshops will focus on private sector job opportunities now and over the next 5-10-20 years. “The biggest challenge for businesses large and small is finding qualified and trained workers. The workforce needs in real time often outpaces the educational resources in any community. These forums will begin the dialogue between all of our partners and employers to insure that every child has the opportunity for a good paying and satisfying job. It is critical for the future of Hamden’s economy”, stated Dale Kroop, Director.

Vocational training options for what are commonly referred to as *the trades* (plumbing, electrical, welding, car mechanics, etc) are often overlooked by parents as a viable option for their children as early as in 5th or 6th grade. Eli Whitney Technical School, the Labor Unions and the Community College system all offer good career paths in the trades for those children. Other vocations such as utilities, fire and police services are also options for young adults and will be explored.

Future sessions in 2019 will include:

* Manufacturing
* Vocational Options
* Information Technology: Coding, HTML and Artificial intelligence
* Sustainability and Environmental Science
* Entrepreneurship
* Job Readiness (i.e. Internships, Appearance, Interview Skills), Financial Literacy,

 and Student Debt

 “If these forums go well, we would love to expand this to other sectors such as retail, hospitality, etc. through adult education. There are many different populations that need re-training. I see veterans, people with disabilities, immigrants, ex-offenders and many other adults who would love the opportunty to be re-trained for a good paying job or career”, stated Dale Kroop

For more information on this new initiative and to RSVP for the informational sessions, contact Dale Kroop at 203-287-7030 or at dkroop@hamden.com or sregan@hamden.com