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MEDIA CONTACTS:
John Beauregard, EWIB
(860) 859-4100 x14
beauregardj@ewib.org

EWIB ROLLS OUT SUMMER JOBS ACROSS REGION

FRANKLIN, CT - Today in Eastern CT ~400 young people are working and collecting a paycheck that just two weeks ago had no job. The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), working through their program providers ~ EASTCONN, Norwich Youth & Family Services, and New London's Office of Youth Affairs have been working to match young people with public and private worksites across the EWIB's 41 town region.

"I think our 2014 initiative has two clear themes" said John Beauregard, EWIB Executive Director. "First is the tremendous support we receive from our regional towns and Councils of Government and second, is the generosity and strategic vision of our participating foundation funders. Without both of these groups, this large-scale jobs project isn't possible."

The large number of youth in the Summer Youth Program that have jobs is the result of a partnership of funders - federal, state, and foundation/philanthropic in Eastern CT. Foundation/philanthropic fund commitments of over \$54,000 come from People's United Community Foundation, AT&T Foundation; Mystic Aquarium/Sea Research Foundation; Edward & Mary Lord Foundation; Liberty Bank Foundation; Pfizer Community Grants Foundation; Charter Oak Federal Credit Union; & Dime Bank Foundation. State of CT funding came from the Department of Labor and Department of Children & Families and federal funding from the Workforce Investment Act.

"The Workforce Board initiative is creating job opportunities to help the region's youth overcome hurdles in today's highly competitive job market," Congressman Joe Courtney stated. "The site that we're visiting today in the Town of Sprague also represents the value our host towns provide to the young workers through top-notch, voluntary supervision."

"With ~ 120 worksites in the region this program helps youth acquire valuable work experience, as well as enhance future job skills and this is of extreme value to the region's employer base." stated Gene Harper, EWIB Chairman and Human Resources Manager of Electric Boat. History has shown

that past program participants are more likely to stay in school, graduate, and thus, be more inclined to participate successfully in the labor market.

EWIB continues year after year to have twice as many applicants for the program than it has funding to employ. *“This is the third year that foundations and philanthropic organizations have stepped up and contributed funding to expand the number of youth who get summer employment,”* said Sue Murphy of Liberty Bank Foundation representing the Southeast CT Funders Collaborative. *“Since 2012, we’ve provided a total of \$138,880 in funding, which translates into about 120 jobs for young people.”*

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*The **Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board** is a not-for-profit organization that oversees public investments in employment and training strategies throughout a 41 town area, and guides the operation of four (4) **CTWorks-East** Centers ~ located in Danielson, New London, Norwich, and Willimantic.*

*The **Southeastern Connecticut Funders Collaborative** consists of local foundations and corporate giving programs that come together to support community initiatives of common interest. Members of the Collaborative supporting EWIB’s summer youth employment program this year include AT&T Foundation, Charter Oak Credit Union, Dime Bank Foundation, the Edward and Mary Lord Foundation, Liberty Bank Foundation, People’s United Community Foundation, Pfizer, and the Sea Research Foundation.*