**EST Virtual Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, September 16th 10-12pm**

**News**

* **Metropolitan Healthcare hiring for 70 positions in Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax.**Contact kellan.graves@fairfaxcounty.gov.
* **Update to Return to Earn Initiative – Match no longer required.**
Any small business (99 employees or less) can receive a $500 reimbursement per employee to offer a hiring bonus for eligible new hires. Please share [online application](https://vcwnorthern.com/employers/return-to-earn/) with businesses.
* **SkillSource Group moving forward with Brazen contract** to test for future use
* **Please help meet LinkedIn Learning goal of 1,000 by end of September –** Please share [flyer](https://vcwnorthern.com/wp-content/uploads/SSG267_LinkedInLearning_Flyer_Northern_FINAL.pdf) and [website](https://vcwnorthern.com/jobseekers/linkedin-learning/) with candidates, small businesses, and teachers.
* [**New Re-Entry Resources Page**](https://vcwnorthern.com/jobseekers/reentry-resources/)on VCW Northern site

1. **Housekeeping and Introductions**

Visiting Attendees – Open for Networking:

**Rachel Jollie, Operations Manager, Perfect Inc
Mission:** Non-profit in Alexandria providing job training and internships to formerly incarcerated women in the greater Washington DC area.
Email: rmjollie@perfectinc.org
Phone: 301-247-1499

**Bridget Brown, Project Manager LEAD4IT, ICF International
Mission:** No-cost grant to resolve IT skills gap by providing funding and no-cost technical assistance to companies to create or expand IT work-based learning, apprenticeships, and training for new or existing employees.
Email: bridget.brown@icf.com.

1. **Guest Employer: NOVA and AT&T Apprenticeships
Megan Moore-Sobel**, NOVA, mmooresobel@nvcc.edu

**Susan Mahboob**, AT&T, CatapultVA@att.com

* **Registered Apprenticeship** with courses through NOVA Continuing Workforce. *Includes Top Secret Security Clearance.* $20.58/hour 20hr/week during training. 8 openings.
* **Application Deadline**: 9/23/21 for cohort Spring 2022 – Spring 2023
* **Application Link:** <https://www.nvcc.edu/career-services/career-connection.html>
* **Requirements:**
	+ 18+ US Citizen only, must reside in VA
	+ Current or former NOVA Continuing Ed or Degree student. See attachment
	+ Clean background for Security Clearance and vaccinated
	+ A current demonstration of aptitude (such as an initial certification)
1. **Guest Employer: Next Chapter Apprenticeships
Talia Klutch,** Project Coordinator, tklutch@slack-corp.com
[Frequently Asked Questions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wc49HKB6yUHbZsQUdJGJ51MGWpZiQ_a_DAQNfmJibZM/edit?usp=sharing)
* **Software Development Apprenticeship Opportunity** for justice-involved individuals. Placement examples: Slack, Dropbox, Square, Checkr, Zoom, GoodRx and more. Currently 11 in 2021, 18 companies on waitlist for 2022!
* **Salary:** Living stipend during bootcamp training, then interview with companies for 6 figures
* **Requirements:**
	+ 1-2 years of coding experience or self-study is ideal, but as little as 3 months
	+ Must pass a Technical Skills Assessment for coding
	+ Must have justice involvement of any kind (doesn’t have to have been incarcerated)
	+ Must be willing to commit to intensive 11+ hour coding training 6 days per week with a living stipend during the bootcamp
1. **Hiring Event Updates**
* **Metropolitan Healthcare Zoom Event Results: Kellan Graves**
	+ Individual Zoom interview event, 13 hires!
	+ Would like to continue to do more of these targeted “face-to-face” virtual events,
	contact Kellan.graves@fairfaxcounty.gov
* **Loudoun In-Person Hiring Event Results**
	+ Collaborated with Loudoun Parks and Rec
	+ Sept Outdoor Fair #1: 35 candidates (55% turnout)
	+ Sept Outdoor Job Fair #2:81 candidates (65% turnout)
* **Sept 8th Statewide Job Fair:** Used Premier Virtual 2.0
* **Return to Earn Job Fair**
	+ Sept 21st - All employers are offering a hiring bonus
	+ [Return to Earn Update](https://vcwnorthern.com/employers/return-to-earn/) – Please let all Small Businesses (99 employees or less) that funds are available to offer up to $500 hiring bonus for eligible hires, no match required.
* **Brazen Contract:** SkillSource Group contracting with Brazen for Virtual Career Fair options
* **Second Chance Hiring Event:** Possible Second Chance Hiring Event in October or November, contact Mark Chernisky to collaborate
1. **LinkedIn Learning Updates**
* **Status:** As of 9/16/2021, 868 licenses sent out, not all have been activated. Still 4501 available!
* **Goal:** Reach 1,000 by end of September, please share with small businesses and candidates.
* **Benefits**: Business, technology, soft skills, professional development. Exam prep, CEUs. Can ask questions of Instructors. Podcasts added! Closed Captions available.
* **Audience:**
	+ Candidates
	+ Teachers to share with their students
	+ Small businesses for professional development for their employees
* **Incentive:** New incentive $100 visa gift card drawing for candidates who activate license.
* **New:** Monthly webinars to walk candidates through setting up and using LinkedIn Licenses.
1. **Revised State WIOA Business Services Policy**
* State released updated Business Services Policy as of July 1
* Please review attached document highlighted with key information and changes
* We will be working as a team to refine our collaborative business services strategy to remain in compliance with the Policy over the next year
* EST Representatives may be selected to represent our region on the State Business Services Team
1. **Serving Refugee and Former UI Candidates**
* In anticipation of an increase in candidate demand, EST is putting together a list of “Quick Hire” or “Survival Jobs” list of employers.
* Please email Eliza, Warren, Kellan, or Mike with employers who:
	+ Have a decent wage
	+ Hire bulk numbers of candidates
	+ Require little to no experience
	+ Hire those with limited English Proficiency

Thank you everyone! The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021.