



*Cape & Islands Workforce Investment Board*

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

## **Cape & Islands Workforce Investment Board Youth Council**

### **Annual Report FY 2016**

#### **All Cape Cod Collaborative In-Service Day**

Every year the Youth Council has the opportunity to lead a professional Development Workforce for Guidance Counselors, School Adjustment Counselors, Social Workers, and Teachers for the Cape Cod Collaborative. On October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Chris Morin, Director of Prevention at the Independence House, led a two-day workshop on the Enough Abuse Campaign. The mission of the Enough Abuse Campaign is to prevent child sexual abuse before it starts. The Enough Abuse Campaign offers educational information for parents, youth, and professionals on preventing sexual abuse among children as well as preventing children from developing abusive behaviors in the future.

#### **All Cape Cod Day of Service/MLK Day**

For the second year in a row, CIWIB Youth Council partnered with the Barnstable County AmeriCorps and the Cape Cod High Schools to participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. The event which took place on Monday January 19, 2016 was held at the Hyannis Community Center. This event challenges students to make it a “day on, not a day”. Each year the service project is different, due to the fact that AmeriCorps serves the entire Cape, the event also rotates. This year, the event focused on making items that could be donated to various organizations that serve both children and families. Projects included making bird feeders, planters, and fleece blankets with were to be donated to A Baby Center, Children’s Cove, Independence House, and Cape Winds Rest Home.

#### **Residential Construction Career Day**

On Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 upwards of 250 juniors and seniors from Barnstable High School, Bourne High School, Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Falmouth High School, Mashpee High School, Martha’s Vineyard High School, Southeast Alternative School and Upper Cape Technical High School attended the first Residential Construction Career Day. This inaugural event, held at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds was a collaboration between the Cape & Islands Workforce Investment Board and the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Cape Cod. Upwards of 40 exhibitors from across Cape Cod provided students with hands-on activities, demonstrations, and information pertaining to careers within the construction field. It was evident that the exhibitors took the time to construct activities which would engage and energize high school students. The intent of the event was to excite students about a future career in a construction related field, as construction is the one of the largest employment sectors on Cape Cod. Our school partners were not only instrumental in bringing our students for the event but also provided critical support in other ways as well. Cape Cod Tech provided 450 lunches, Mashpee High School senior, Amanda Soroka created “Herbie”, the new

mascot for the Home Builders & Remodelers Association. Mashpee Juniors Hailey Roy and Naomi Gonzalez worked with Shane Kinsman of Mashpee TV to provide television coverage of the day as well as interviews. Erin Eastman, School Readiness Counselor at Barnstable High School was an important part of the Residential Construction Day planning committee.

### **Connecting Activities State-wide Conference**

On Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, the State-wide Connecting Activities Conference was held in Leominster, Massachusetts at the Double Tree Hotel. Each year, a student from a Massachusetts high school is selected to share their story. I am very proud and honored that this year, Cape Cod was selected. Alyssa Menendez, a senior at Dennis-Yarmouth High School and a student in Lisa Fedy's internship class, interned at SenCorp White under the direction of Mike Esposito. Alyssa learned and was given exposure to a STEM career, which is what she knew she wanted to study in college. Alyssa also shared her experience with both the Youth Council and the Dennis-Yarmouth School Committee. Alyssa will be attending Mt. Ida Honors College in the fall.

### **Youth Council Interns**

This year we had two high school interns: Amanda Soroka, a senior from Mashpee High School who interned on the Youth Council and Amanda Hebert, a senior from Falmouth High School who interned with Leadership Academy. In addition to her role on the Youth Council, Amanda participated in Home Builders Gala, MLK Day, Teen Dating Awareness Month, Credit for Life and Cape Cod Women's Conference. Amanda Hebert assisted in facilitating MVP segment of the Leadership Academy, attended the Cape Cod Women's Conference and aided in the preparation of Leadership Academy. Amanda Soroka will be attending UMass Boston to pursue a career in Nursing and Amanda Hebert will be attending James Madison University where she will study Occupational Therapy.

### **Cape Cod Home Builders & Remodelers Association Gala**

Five female members of the newly formed Mashpee High School student chapter of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Cape Cod were honored at the 65<sup>th</sup> Home Builders Gala, including Amanda Soroka, chapter President, also created "Herbie" the new mascot. All of the girls received gift bags that included pink hard hats, woman's tool kits and job applications. All five students are members of Michael Looney's School to Career Program.

### **Scholarship Committee**

The scholarship committee received 33 scholarship applications to be awarded to students attending a technical/trade program and a student attending a college and/or community college. We increased the number of applications received by 15, this was due to an aggressive social media campaign as well weekly communication via our newsletter and our STC contacts. We awarded four \$500 scholarships the awardees represented: a technical school, a community college, a state college and a private university. We received scholarship applications from the following schools: Barnstable HS, Cape Cod Technical HS, Dennis-Yarmouth HS, Falmouth HS, Mashpee HS, Monomoy HS, Upper Cape Tech HS, WayPoint, Upper Cape Tech HS and CCCC GED program.

### **Credit for Life**

The Director of Youth Services participated in the Credit for Life events at several area high schools including: Barnstable High School, Bourne High School, Dennis – Yarmouth High School, Cape Cod Tech

High School, Falmouth High School, Mashpee High School, Monomoy High School, Wareham High School, and Upper Cape Tech High School. This year was the first year both Bourne High School and Monomoy High School held this event and did so successfully. Brittany Martini, a senior at Mashpee High School utilized this event as her senior project, as it provided her with real life exposure into the banking world. Brittany will be studying accounting at Merrimack College. Credit for Life is a collaboration with Cape Cod Five as a way for high school seniors to gain hands-on financial literacy experience. Students participating in this event are given a career, often one in which the student is planning on studying in school such as; law, education, nursing, military, cosmetology, HVAC, law enforcement to name a few. Students are also given a credit score and must make “real world” decisions on a budget.

### **ArtWorks**

ArtWorks is a School to Career partnership with Heritage Museum & Gardens in which students are placed in a 40-hour internship with local artist mentors on Cape Cod. Through this partnership, Cape Cod artists play a significant role in mentoring and exposing students to the creative economy within the region. This year thirty-eight students participated in the ArtWorks program. Students represented the following schools: Barnstable High School, Dennis – Yarmouth High School, Falmouth High School, Mashpee High School, Monomoy High School, St. John Paul High School, Upper Cape Tech High School, and Sturgis Charter High School. Their areas of study included: painting, ceramics, photography, mixed media, digital media, fashion design, voice, dance, and landscape design. The culminating event is the ArtWorks Exhibit, this year the exhibit opened at Wellfleet Preservation Hall on Saturday June 4 and will then travel to the Tilden Art Center and the State House.

### **Connecting Activities FY15 Annual Report Highlights**

During FY15 185 high schools were partners in the CA initiative, and another 50 were members, total more than half of the state’s 393 public high schools. Over 10,487 students were placed in internships in Massachusetts in FY15. Over 7,000 students utilized the Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan (WBLP), it is important to note that the WBLP structures both learning and productivity at the jobsite as well as connecting classroom learning lessons to the work-based learning experiences. Recent Mashpee graduate, Brendon Scannell was featured in the Connecting Activities FY15 Report. Brendon found positive direction through the internship program at Mashpee High School, with the support and guidance from Michael Looney, Department Coordinator, Career and Technical Education, Brendan completed interest surveys, researched careers and ultimately secured an internship with Reed Plumbing & Heating. Brendan is still employed full time with Reed Plumbing today and is looking forward to furthering his education in this field.

### **Leadership Academy**

With the success of our inaugural Leadership Academy in the spring of 2015, the Executive Committee of the Youth Council immediately began to plan for Leadership Academy 2016 over the summer. We deemed it critical that this year’s event needed a different theme and we felt it was important to leverage our relationships with our youth council members. Once again, the focus would be 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders, as we have identified this age group as a group that is in need of training and that in return can make a positive impact in both their schools and communities.

On Tuesday April 5, students convened at Dennis-Yarmouth High School to take part in a modified Mentors in Violence Prevention Program. (MVP). This program was facilitated by Kira Jewitt of

Independence House along with two trained and certified students: Amanda Hewitt, a senior from Falmouth HS and Paxton Reed, a senior from Cape Cod Tech HS. This was an interactive training with students taking part in activities that raise awareness about healthy relationships, teen dating violence, sexual assault and gender stereotyping. Students attending this event were from Dennis-Yarmouth HS and Sturgis High School. On May 23, students attended a second event at Camp Lyndon, in which six different school districts participated in. This event focused on leadership, teamwork and the promoting self-confidence. All activities were held outside, students took part in field activities, boating and archery activities.

### **Bourne High School**

The Youth Services Director partnered with the Bourne school system to provide a Career Readiness class, which also included use of the YES curriculum. Topics that were covered included: resume and interview, mock interviews, and instruction on MassCIS. With the introduction of MassCIS, which is a comprehensive, internet-based career information system, students were able to research information on potential careers, labor market outlook, education that is required, along with possible school choices. This research was compiled and the students constructed a final class project which included both an essay and a presentation.

### **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**

1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse while dating each year. With this daunting statistic, we felt it was important to partner with the Independence House and their “We are the Change” Cape-wide art contest. Students submitted artwork in many different forms which included: drawing, poetry, graphic design, performance pieces and original song. 75 pieces of art were submitted from our School to Career partner schools including: Falmouth HS, Cape Cod Tech HS, Mashpee HS, and Dennis -Yarmouth HS. Paxton Reed, a senior at Cape Cod Tech HS and President of the MVP program at Cape Cod Tech HS, gave a heartfelt and emotional speech, in which he conveyed an event in his personal life prompted him to get involved with the MVP program. Falmouth High School senior, Bailey Andrews sang Lady Gaga’s “Till It Happens to You”, this performance won Bailey third place. First place winner, Amanda Soroka, a senior at Mashpee High School, submitted a Public Service Announcement.

### **School to Career partners:**

- Bourne High School
- Barnstable High School
- Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
- Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School
- Falmouth High School
- Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School
- Mashpee High School
- Nantucket High School
- Southeast Alternative School
- Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
- Heritage Museum and Gardens