

Workforce Connections

Your monthly digest of resources, events, and all things Workforce Development in Lancaster County



December 10, 2020 | Issue XVII

In the News...

LCWDB recipient of Best Workplaces in Lancaster County award! Read more and check out all the winners!



8,700 unfilled jobs in Lancaster County mean unemployment claims could fall much lower, expert says (LNP - subscription required)

BLS: Supplemental data measuring the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the labor market

Out of work because of COVID-19? Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and SACA have teamed up to help



Never miss an opportunity to apply for funding through the Lancaster County Workforce Development Board! By signing up [here](#), you will be notified any time Requests for Proposals (RFP's) are released.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- Find [food assistance resources near you](#).
- [Mental health and substance use disorder help](#) is available.
- If you are unable to work due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for [unemployment benefits](#).
- Learn more about COVID-19 testing and [find a testing center](#).
- See the latest [COVID-19 guidance and resources](#) for Pennsylvanians.
- Download the [COVID Alert PA mobile app](#) for exposure notifications.
- See which restaurants are [Open & Certified](#) as COVID-compliant businesses.

Follow us on Social Media!

A HUGE Thank-You to all those who donated during the ExtraGive. We are amazed by your generosity!



Computer Science Education Week December 7 - 13, 2020

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field. As part of the #CSforGood movement this year we're proud to elevate

#CSforSocialJustice

Visit www.csedweek.org for tools, events and resources



Download Computer Occupations
Report for Lancaster County

View the CSEdWeek Panel

Did you miss Monday's event? View the panel discussion in its entirety.

Make Beats. Learn Code. Promote Equity.

This spring, Amazon, Georgia Tech, and Pharrell Williams' philanthropic organization, **YELLOW**, invite you to engage your students in the Your Voice Is Power learning experience and coding competition. Students will learn entrepreneurship, computer science and social justice by remixing Pharrell's new song "**Entrepreneur**" on Georgia Tech's **Earsketch** platform. After coding a unique musical remix incorporating themes of racial equity, students can submit their songs to be judged in a final challenge.

The competition runs from January 15 to June 4. Remixes will be judged based on quality of music, code, and messaging by a panel of industry judges. Three students will win a \$5,000 grand prize for college or to start their own business, and five teachers will receive \$1,000 for above and beyond instruction.

This an initiative of Amazon as part of its **Amazon Future Engineer** program, designed to increase access to computer science for underserved and underrepresented students.

Learn
More

LCWDB seeks to invest \$20K to train Apprenticeship Navigators

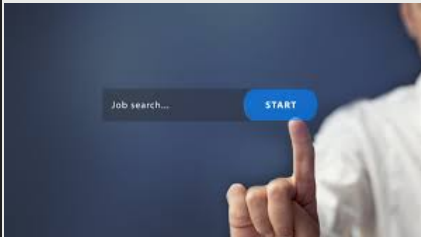
Utilizing State Apprenticeship Expansion funding, grant will support 7 Navigator Apprentices and hopes to add 6

Registered Apprenticeships in County over next 3 years

Workforce intermediaries including PA CareerLink staff, Post-secondary training providers, Union representatives, and others play a key role in helping businesses create Registered Apprenticeships. Check out this innovative way Keystone Development Partnership created a Registered Apprenticeship to train Apprenticeship Navigators. Interested in applying? Contact [Valerie Hatfield](#) to learn more.



Services for Jobseekers



- Are you currently jobseeking? Subscribe to [Career Corner](#), a newsletter for jobseekers issued by PA CareerLink Lancaster County that includes hot jobs, recruitment events, and more!
- Seeking to earn your first credential? [The Path to One Good Job](#) in partnership with United Way offers scholarships up to \$5,500 for first-time credential earners.
- Learn anytime, anywhere with [SkillUp Lancaster](#). Over 4,500 Business, Desktop and IT courses. This e-learning platform is free to any Lancaster resident.

Services for Employers



- [SkillUp for Employers](#) now offers free, customized new hire training (*designed by you, the employer*) and no-cost Kenexa Prove-It assessments.
- Utilize the many [no-cost services](#) of the PA CareerLink Business Services Team.
- Follow [Recovery Lancaster](#) to get back to business!
- Participate in the [Technology Council of Pennsylvania's](#) Tech Work Expo: Virtual Tech Career Fair coming in February 2021. [Register by January 15th.](#)

Services for Students/Educators



- [Power Library](#) is PA's electronic library, including CHAT with a Librarian and resources for kids and teens!
- [Resources](#) that highlight the opportunities to support [Entrepreneurship](#)
- [*New* Civil Service Virtual Presentations](#) presented through the PA Office of Administration are *available to Lancaster County secondary schools*. This presentation covers how to obtain employment for the Commonwealth, what positions are available, and which require a Civil Service Exam. [Schedule your live or recorded presentation today!](#)

Lancaster has the Edge!

Coming January 2021

Lancaster has the Edge! Edge Factor empowers communities to tackle workforce development, inspire students, reach parents, and build relationships between local companies, schools, and families. This e-learning tool showcases industries and careers, teaches soft skills, and shows how STEAM comes alive in the real world while highlighting local training and career opportunities. **Employers and Training Providers**, do you want to be featured on the Lancaster Edgefactor page? *No cost, no maintenance, exposure for your company!* [Contact us to get started.](#)



Check out the NEW Weekly Unemployment Claims Interactive Dashboard to see up-to-date local information

Did You Know?

The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board is your *premier* source for Labor Market Information.

We can provide resources and links for self-service access to local, state, and federal labor market information, as well as customized reports for your business, at no charge!

To discuss your Labor Market needs, please contact [Valerie Hatfield](#).

Just released:

[Long Term Occupation Projections for Lancaster County through 2028](#)

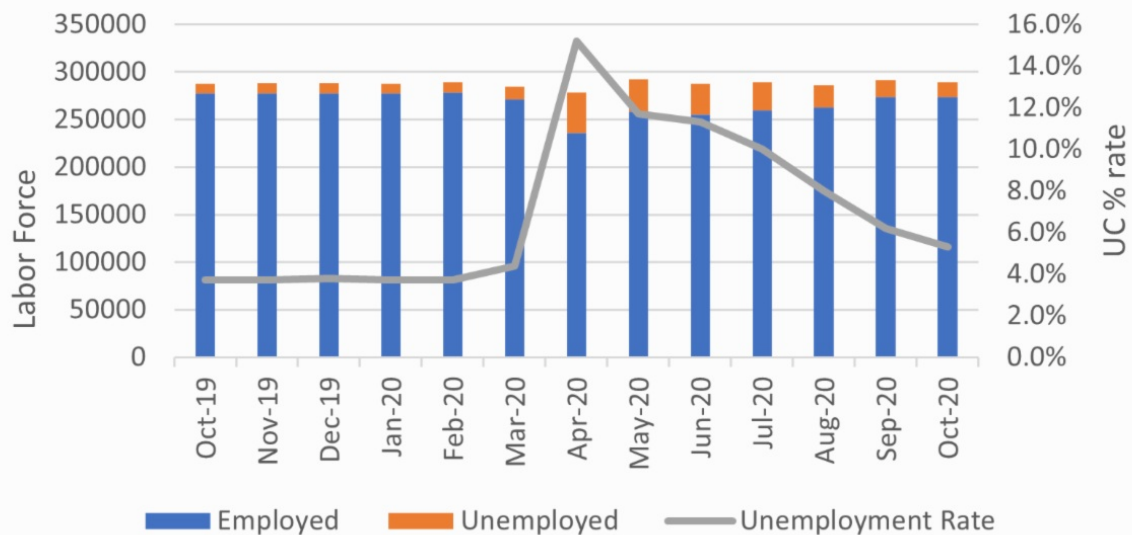
[Lancaster County Profile for December 2020](#)

The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board tracks occupation and education trends to assist jobseekers, businesses and training providers prepare to meet the demands of the future

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Trends for Lancaster County

The graph below depicts the Lancaster County Labor Force compared over 12 months. This visual helps to show how our economy was affected and continues to rebound during the pandemic.

12 Month Comparison - Lancaster County Employment Situation



1. The Labor Force participation rate (those available and looking for work) has increased by 1,400 people from October 2019 to October 2020
2. The Unemployment Rate peaked in April 2020 at 42,500 people, or 15.2%
3. The number of unemployed has trended downward towards normal levels since April 2020 and is currently reported at 5.3%, closer to pre-pandemic levels of under 4%
4. Lancaster County is well positioned to help residents retrain or transfer their skills to in-demand occupations

Cathy's Corner

A note from desk of the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board

Well, here we are – December 2020. What a year it has been. I challenge you to think about this: If I knew in January 2020, what we were going to experience, what would I have done differently? Then go do it!

The pandemic has undoubtedly affected all of us in many ways. We have lost loved ones and have friends and family that beat the virus. We have helped many family and friends who lost their job – watching fear grip the spirit of some as they saw their income slashed and getting barely enough to cover basic expenses. So many business owners that worked tirelessly just could not hold on for another month. But with each of these and many more, there has been gratitude and strength that simply did not make sense. See, even in the worst of times, many have found a way to focus on positive things happening. Waking up in the morning, being able to see children off to school, having dinner with the entire family at the table, a new business opportunity, new friendships, \$13 million raised in one day, are just a few. Many times throughout this year I have experienced grace and peace when I least expected it. I have been afforded the kindness of those who have so much less, yet so much more. I have witnessed the strength of our community as we pulled together to find relevant ways to shed light in the darkness. For these reasons, and so many more, I want to thank you for being part of the solutions that help keep Lancaster – Lancaster. So, let's keep it up, our challenges are not over. Don't forget to say hi to a stranger, pay for coffee for the next in line, write a letter to someone in the military, or any simple task that makes today a little brighter for someone struggling.



As I wrap up 2020, I reflect on all that I am grateful for. I am grateful for the gift of life, the amazing family and friends that fill me with joy, my co-workers and peers who challenge me to be the best I can, a Board of Directors who believe in me, and each of you reading this. I am grateful for those working beyond exhaustion to care for the sick. I certainly could go on and on, but for now, I'll stop. My wish for each of you is a holiday season filled with love and cheer! Happy Holidays – now bring on 2021!

Cathy

Contact Us



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Lancaster County Workforce Development Board |
www.lancastercountywib.com



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.
Auxiliary aids and services available to those with disabilities upon request.