

# LAUNCH!

YOUR SUCCESS

Serving the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania

## 'LAUNCH!' Client Heading to Wyoming for National Forest Internship

"LAUNCH! Your Success" participant Flinn, 19, is looking forward to his 18-week internship in the Shoshone National Forest. Bordering Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Shoshone National Forest is America's first national forest and is home to some of the greatest concentrations of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. Flinn will be working on the Developed Recreation crew through the Student Conservation Association (SCA). He will be doing work such as cleaning fire rings, painting and repairing picnic tables, landscaping, cleaning restrooms, using hand tools, working with campground hosts, and interacting with the public about forest rules and regulations.

During his free time, Flinn will be able to enjoy the many recreation options including hiking, fly fishing, horseback riding, rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, and numerous other local events throughout the summer.

Shortly after starting 11th grade, Flinn dropped out of high school. He first met with LAUNCH! career advisor Brittany and HiSet instructor Cindy in August 2021. Flinn enrolled in the LAUNCH! program on January 28, 2022, and has passed four out of the five HiSet tests with college-level ready scores. He is currently preparing to take his last test before he leaves in the middle of May.



*Flinn with LAUNCH! Career Advisor Brittany Miller*

During his internship, Flinn will receive a travel allowance, a weekly living allowance, free housing, and will also be eligible for an AmeriCorps education award.

**"I think the LAUNCH! program is a powerful tool to move people forward; the staff pushes you to do the work but understands the importance of pacing and environment.**

**"I want to get involved in the conservation of our lands because I have strong opinions on preservation and I believe it's very important that the right people are the ones working in the field."**

**~Flinn**

Shoshone National Forest photo from Forest Service website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/shoshone/about-forest>

# Licensed Practical Nurse Tuition Program Receiving Applications

Guthrie is pleased to announce a partnership with the Northern Tier Career Center (NTCC) to sponsor tuition for select students in the year-long Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program. Limited sponsored spaces will be available for the August 2022 class, and applications are currently being accepted. Those who are selected and successfully complete the LPN program will receive a full-time position as an acute care LPN at Guthrie.

Details of the program:

- Classes begin in August 2022
- High school diploma required
- Limited spots available
- Participants must make a per diem commitment as a Care Partner/Care Companion while attending the program

Gary Martell, NTCC Director, said, "We are delighted to partner with Guthrie to provide a quality nurse training program. This collaboration was essential as we share a common goal of serving our community and educating the future workforce."

Responsibilities of LPNs include:

- Monitor patients throughout their treatment
- Perform routine checks of patients' vital signs
- Ensure that patients take their medication
- Assist doctors and registered nurses
- Communicate with patients' families

**"I enjoy working as an LPN at Guthrie because I have a supportive team that is able to provide the best care for our patients and I am able to make a difference in the lives of people in our community."**

**~Daniel Fitzwater, LPN**

**For more information, contact Rebecca Frisbie:**

**[Rebecca.Frisbie@guthrie.org](mailto:Rebecca.Frisbie@guthrie.org)**

**570-887-4906**

## About the Guthrie Clinic

The Guthrie Clinic is a non-profit integrated health system located in North Central Pennsylvania and Upstate New York, serving patients from a 12-county service area. The Guthrie Clinic is comprised of a research institute, home care/hospice, and hospitals in Sayre, PA; Corning, NY; Towanda, PA; Troy, PA; and Cortland, NY; as well as a multi-specialty group practice of nearly 700 providers offering 47 specialties through a regional office network providing primary and specialty care in 22 communities in Pennsylvania and New York. The Guthrie Clinic is dedicated to training the next generation of health care leaders, offering seven residencies and three fellowships. The Guthrie Clinic provides a wide range of services and programs to enhance the health and well-being of those it serves.

# Bradford County Action Success Story



Emily was referred to Bradford County Action in March 2021 by a staff member at Lackawanna College in Towanda, PA. At the time, Emily was working long hours on a pig farm and decided she wanted to change her career path and attend the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program. The Youth Career Advisor and the Adult/Dislocated Worker Case Manager met with Emily and determined that she was eligible for the Out of School Youth Program.

Emily began doing academic remediation with the instructors at Bradford County Action and

started her CCMA program in June 2021. She loved her classes and excelled in them. Emily's instructor stated that she was doing very well in the course.

In February 2022 Emily started clinicals and found them to be very hectic but rewarding. She also discovered that she really likes the phlebotomy field and hopes to find a job where she can use her medical assistance and phlebotomy training.

Emily passed the CCMA National Certification Exam in April 2022. Emily is expecting a baby in May 2022 and continues to work part-time at a local hospital.

**Emily passed the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)  
National Certification Exam in April!**

## NTRPDC Increases 'STEAM' Opportunities in the Northern Tier

In August 2021, the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) applied to the PA Department of Labor and Industry for funding to increase Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) opportunities for youth in the region. The aim was to provide new STEAM kits to all of the school districts in the five-county region, giving students increased and new opportunities.

With the grant award, NTRPDC provided 15 school districts and the two YMCAs within our region with new STEAM activities to be used either this school year, over the summer, or next school year. Some of the kits can be reused from year to year. The participating schools and YMCAs will report on how many youth were impacted by the new STEAM kits. The school districts and YMCAs were thankful for the opportunity to get new equipment and activities for students. So far, three districts have reported back this school year with articles on the use of the kits and pictures of groups of students involved. In just these three districts more than 200 kids in grades 4-8 were enriched by the materials.

# Sullivan County Success Story

Gerhett enrolled in the "Launch! Your Success" program in January 2022 in hopes of finding fulfilling full-time employment. Gerhett is a recent Sullivan County High School graduate who aspired to stay and work in Sullivan County. Staff at Sullivan County Trehab connected him with an exciting on-the-job training opportunity at a new company setting roots in Sullivan County. Unity Lab recently purchased the Hoffman New Yorker in Dushore, PA, and is revitalizing the current operation and bringing new industry to the county with the addition of Unity Laundry. Unity Laundry supplies washing machines to clients across the United States. They also plan

to continue Hoffman's steam press manufacturing.

Gerhett completed an eight-week on-the-job (OJT) training as a quality control technician with Unity Laundry. As part of the quality control team, Gerhett learned how to quality test the commercial washing machines and prepare them for customer shipment. Gerhett will be working full time with plenty of room for advancement as the company grows. George from Unity commented, "Gerhett has been a valuable addition to the team. He is a quick learner, and he has a great work ethic. He is certainly an OJT success story." Gerhett is excited to continue his career with Unity Lab and staff at Sullivan County Trehab wish him continued success.

For more information on what the Launch! Your Success program has to offer, check it out at [www.launchyoursuccessnt.org](http://www.launchyoursuccessnt.org).



Gerhett

## Tioga County Enhances Outreach

The newly rebranded youth program, "LAUNCH! Your Success," has provided our Career Advisors with the amazing opportunity to get out into the community and make our presence known so that we can continue to make a difference. Public outreach is a key tactic to better meeting the needs of our community, whether it is partnering with employers for internships or being present within our schools to provide guidance and information. That meaningful engagement is just the connection needed for the success of our youth.

Since accepting the LAUNCH! Career Advisor position in Tioga

County, Jaleesa Jones has made tremendous progress in building connections with those who want to see the youth of our community thrive. Schools, employers, and even the justice system all have welcomed her and agreed to support her efforts in assisting the youth in the region.

Jones said, "I have helped clients regain their independence through finding employment, education, and receiving benefits that could help them in their time of need. My mission is to help keep the youth engaged and promote ownership of their success by letting them determine their course of action

after their options have been presented to them and to provide mentorship, guidance, and navigation as we talk things through. Building relationships and trust is important in forming successful and positive experiences for our clients. The overwhelming feedback from the community has been positive and inspiring. As we move into a new era post-pandemic, I hope to continue to connect the youth of our community with the tools and resources they need to excel, and to remind them that they're not alone."



## Wyoming County Success Stories

April was an exciting month for the Wyoming County “LAUNCH! Your Success” program. Client Tori-Lynn was able to successfully obtain her HiSet certification and did so with only a week left before her baby girl arrived! The staff was able to congratulate her on earning her

High School Equivalency certificate and on becoming a new mother.

The success continued with another LAUNCH! Your Success client starting her first-ever work experience at the Meshoppen Cat Rescue.

Heather has battled social anxiety most of her life, which resulted in

her dropping out of school. With the encouragement of staff and the volunteers at the cat rescue, she is finding that working with the animals provides a comfort that she was not sure she would ever experience.

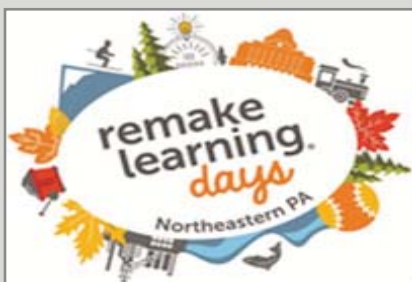
## Remake Learning Days

Remake Learning Days launches in Northeast PA with a festival of hands-on learning opportunities from May 12-23, 2022. These events will allow youth, families, grandparents, caregivers, and educators to explore creative and fun ways of learning. Build a robot, make an art project, explore the outdoors, learn to code, or 3D print! Attend events at schools, museums, libraries, after-school organizations, childcare centers, tech companies, and more.

More than 60 organizations across Northeast PA will host Remake Learning Days. These events are geared toward youth and their families learning side by side and include such themes as Arts, Maker, Outdoor Learning, Science, Technology, and Youth Voice. There are even events for educator professional development. Remake

Learning Days is a festival of events hosted by a variety of organizations, such as schools, museums, libraries, after-school organizations, early childcare centers, universities, media centers, tech startups, and more.

For more information visit <https://remakelearningdays.org/northeastern/> or contact Monica McCarty ([mmccarty@IU17.org](mailto:mmccarty@IU17.org)) or Rebecca Gibboney ([rgibboney@IU17.org](mailto:rgibboney@IU17.org)). Schools can register and learn more about the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge at <https://remakelearningdays.org/pa-career-ready/>.



# Northern Tier BEP Returns to Pre-Pandemic Activities



*Kevin Morgan (Left) from Cummings Lumber Company and Chris Carl from Barefoot Pellet Company attended the Bradford/Sullivan Career Day and spoke with many students about their occupations.*

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission's (NTRPDC's) Business Education Partnership (BEP) has been coordinating and implementing in-person career education events for students of the Northern Tier this school year. NTRPDC's BEP program employs career coaches to assist school districts with career education in the five-county region. The goal of the BEP is to increase career education and exploration events to students in K-12 in an effort to improve students' career awareness, soft skills, and workplace knowledge.

Students regularly participate in classroom lessons that include career education. Career coaches assist in implementing events such as mock interview days, career fairs, employer panels, and many others in an effort to directly link students to area businesses so

they can become aware of the range of occupations right here in the Northern Tier. The COVID-19 pandemic put on hold many of the in-person activities that previously connected students to employers. Career coaches had to become more innovative and they used online platforms to make connections where possible. This school year, in-person events are once again an option and career coaches have been busy planning and implementing as many events as possible.

The Bradford Sullivan Career Fair was held on March 18, 2022, at Towanda High School. Nearly 600 students from seven districts across Sullivan and Bradford counties attended the event. Students had access to representatives of 25 local businesses who were ready to talk about their jobs as well as hundreds of other types of occupations available within their companies. While at the event, students also participated in an "Essential Skills Scavenger Hunt" where they were given marks on a score card by the presenters depending on how effectively they interacted with presenters. If they displayed good "soft skills" during interactions, they had their score cards marked and could be entered to win a prize. Our thanks to all of the schools and businesses that participated as well as to Towanda High School for hosting.

Multiple mock interview days were held across the Northern Tier during January, February, and March 2022. During mock interviews, students meet with business professionals or school staff and are "interviewed" and then critiqued by the interviewer on how

*more next page*

**For more information, or if you are an employer interested in connecting with a local school district, please contact Jody McCarty, Workforce Program Administrator, at [mccarty@northerntier.org](mailto:mccarty@northerntier.org).**

well they did. These mock interviews are structured with possible questions given to the interviewer and interviewee before their meeting. Students are also prepared beforehand about soft skills as well as appropriate apparel. They also prepare resumes to be distributed to the interviewers before the interview takes place. These “mock interviews” give students a unique opportunity to prepare for real interviews.

Career cluster panels were held on multiple dates at Wellsboro High School during February and March. Each panel consisted of multiple (four to eight) professionals who discussed their occupations. The career clusters represented were manufacturing, health sciences, entrepreneurship, hospitality and tourism, transportation and logistics, law and public safety, skilled trades, and agriculture. The panels gave students the opportunity to

speak directly to professionals in the field that they are interested in and ask specific questions about the skills, abilities, and education needed for specific occupations.

These are just a few of the career education activities that BEP’s career coaches have conducted this school year. Students and employers alike have been happy to once again speak face to face.

## Healthy Minds, Thriving Kids Project Website

Some estimates suggest that as many as 20 percent of kids in the U.S. have a mental health, behavioral, or learning disorder. During the summer, students and their families can feel isolated from friends and support, which can make things even worse.

One online resource is the Healthy Minds website (<https://childmind.org/healthyminds/>) developed through a partnership between the State of California and the Child Mind Institute.

The website, available in both English and Spanish, provides videos for parents and other caregivers, educators, and students from elementary school through high school age. The video series addresses the following topics:

- **Understanding Feelings:** Students will learn that better understanding and recognizing their emotions can be an important first step toward healthy coping and deeper relationships.
- **Relaxation Skills:** Students will learn specific relaxation skills, such as paced breathing, that they can use when experiencing intense or uncomfortable emotions.
- **Understanding Thoughts:** Students will learn about connections between their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and how they can change thinking patterns to make them more helpful.
- **Managing Intense Emotions:** Students will learn to recognize and manage intense emotions without giving in to the urge to act in impulsive ways that can make problems bigger.
- **Mindfulness:** Students will learn how paying attention to the present moment can increase self-awareness, improve decision-making, and make it easier to deal with uncomfortable emotions.

**Each video comes with a brief companion resource that summarizes key ideas and includes an activity that can be practiced in school or at home.**

**If you or someone you know needs help now, text HOME to the number 741741, or call your local crisis line or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).**

**In a life-threatening emergency, call 911 immediately.**

# SCCTC Students Complete Community Service Project

The Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center's (SCCTC's) Carpentry & Cabinetmaking program recently completed a community service project for SkillsUSA. Sydney Baker, Wyatt Johnson, and Ricardo Hernandez chose to help our local community by accepting donations of non-perishable food, gently used clothing, and blankets to deliver to Trehab. The students made flyers to hand out and post in all of the SCCTC's sending school districts to solicit donations. Mr. Bruce Castelli, Carpentry & Cabinetmaking Instructor, was amazed how much was contributed. All donations were sorted and organized, which helped the students learn about working together as a team. The students also learned the importance of helping others and how



*Dr. Alice M. Davis, SCCTC Executive Director; Mr. Bruce Castelli, Carpentry Instructor; Mrs. Elizabeth Hanyon, Para Professional; Ricardo Hernandez, Sydney Baker, and Wyatt Johnson*

this impacts the community as a whole. These donations will benefit many families in the community. SCCTC's Executive Director, Dr. Alice M. Davis, said, "I am extremely proud of these students

for taking charge of this project. To see the pride and determination of these individuals to make this a positive experience for all involved was incredible."

## 'LAUNCH! Your Success' Participates in Transition Conference

"Launch! Your Success" connected with students in the region in March 2022 at the Transition Conference hosted by BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 and Pennsylvania College of Technology. More than 230 participants from 17 local school districts attended this inspiring conference. The conference consisted of breakout sessions, vendor booths, a panel discussion, and a keynote speaker. Launch! Your Success

(Bradford County Action & Trehab) was one of 21 community agencies represented at the event. Included in the resources that staff shared were the new Launch! and PA CareerLink® brochures, materials from our workforce toolbox, and the Launch! QR code to the website. The staff showcased the site on a laptop to demonstrate how user-friendly the site is. For example, clicking the "Apply Today" button brings up a simple form

to get site visitors connected to a Career Advisor to discuss services, eligibility, and other questions. Tamara Heess, Trehab Sullivan County Workforce and Launch! Career Advisor said, "As a first-time attendee, it was an eye-opening experience to be a part of a conference that focused on the next step after graduation for students who receive special education services. The Transition Conference also provided a great  
*more next page*



opportunity to network with other agencies and students from Bradford and Tioga counties.”

Carissa West, Trehab Tioga County Workforce Intern and Mansfield University Social Work Student, said, “As a soon-to-be graduate, I took a strong interest in helping my peers at this Transition Conference. Watching this community come together shed light on what our program, and all the others who

attended, can offer to those in this huge transitional period of life. Each room I walked through was full of people offering wisdom and support. I couldn’t have been happier to see the students’ faces brighten up as they realized this too. There are so many resources out there to facilitate any individual in their journey after high school.”

Breanna Repard, Trehab Workforce Development Director, said,

“This event really came together—BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 and Pennsylvania College of Technology did a great job. I am happy that Launch! was able to be showcased to all the young people who attended along with parents, school personnel, and other agency representatives. Our continued success will come from getting the word out about Launch! so that the students know we are here to help.”

## SCCTC Inducts 20 Students into NTHS

The Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center (SCCTC) recently held its annual National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) Induction Ceremony. On March 23, 2022, 20 inductees and nine returning members were honored. The students were nominated by their instructors and chosen by a panel according to their scholastic achievements, citizenship, character, and community involvement.

NTHS inductees included: Cohen Anderson, Mountain View; Charlize Barhite, Mountain View; Natalee Brown, Lackawanna Trail; Prestyn Brown, Tunkhannock Area; Carolyn Cannella, Elk Lake; Bruce Cosner, Tunkhannock Area; Cadence DeGregory, Elk Lake; Sierra Grant, Montrose Area; Cheyenne Horn, Elk Lake; Kohen Kraynak, Elk Lake; Sydney Lane, Elk Lake; Cadence Lusk, Blue Ridge; Kendra Parry, Blue Ridge; Makayla Purdy, Tunkhannock Area; Cameron Robinson, Blue Ridge; Zayne Shupp, Elk Lake; Greg Stapleton, Elk Lake; Sarah Truscott, Adult Student; Morgan Unger, Elk Lake; Kaylee Wood, Mountain View.

The ceremony opened with a welcome speech by SCCTC Executive Director Dr. Alice M. Davis.

*Charlize Barhite, Mr. John Gazzillo, Carolyn Cannella, Bruce Cosner, Cadence DeGregory, Zayne Shupp, Sierra Grant, Kohen Kraynak, Sydney Lane, Greg Stapleton, Cheyenne Horn, Cameron Robinson, Cadence Lusk, Emily Streich, Kendra Parry, Makayla Purdy, Morgan Unger, Prestyn Brown, Kaylee Wood, Mr. James Baker, Dr. Alice M. Davis, and Mrs. Jaclyn Litwin*



# Northern Tier Workforce Development Board LAUNCH! Your Success Service Providers



PA CareerLink® and Affiliate Sites

[www.launchyoursuccessnt.org](http://www.launchyoursuccessnt.org)

## Bradford County

Bradford County Action  
500 William Street  
Towanda, PA 18848  
570-265-4434

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[afunk@bradfordcountyaction.org](mailto:afunk@bradfordcountyaction.org)

## Susquehanna County

Trehab, Inc.  
1302 Main Street  
Susquehanna, PA 18847  
570-853-1103

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
or

14 Public Avenue  
Montrose, PA  
570-278-5201

TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[bmiller@trehab.org](mailto:bmiller@trehab.org)

## Tioga County

Trehab, Inc.  
42 Plaza Lane  
Wellsboro, PA 16901  
570-662-1307  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[jjones@trehab.org](mailto:jjones@trehab.org)



## Sullivan County

Trehab, Inc.  
210 Center Street  
Dushore, PA 18614  
570-928-2127  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[theess@trehab.org](mailto:theess@trehab.org)

## Wyoming County

Trehab, Inc.  
1 Kim Avenue, Suite 10  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
570-996-2438  
TDD/TTY PA Relay 711  
[cwagner@trehab.org](mailto:cwagner@trehab.org)

Start your LAUNCH! adventure today—  
call or e-mail the service provider for the  
county where you live.

# Northern Tier Youth Committee

## Mission

A system that provides all youth and young adults with the skills and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, encourages life-long learning, and ensures the region a skilled workforce.

As a subcommittee of the Northern Tier Workforce Development Board, the Youth Committee is comprised of members with a special interest or expertise in youth policy. The Youth Committee is responsible for:

- Recommending eligible providers of youth/young adult activities to the Workforce Development Board to be awarded grants or contracts on a competitive basis;
- Providing oversight to the eligible providers of young adult services in the Northern Tier;
- Coordinating activities and leveraging resources to effectively serve the young adult residents of the region;
- Developing portions of the local plan related to eligible participants, as determined by the Workforce Development Board;
- Coordinating activities in the Northern Tier; and
- Performing other duties determined to be appropriate by the Workforce Development Board.

The Northern Tier Youth Committee meets quarterly at the PA CareerLink®, 312 Main Street, Suite 1, Towanda.

## Membership

Brad Reid, Chair  
Center Director  
Lackawanna College, Towanda  
Center

Krista Abresch  
Intellectual Disabilities  
Quality Manager  
Bradford County Human Services

Brooke Beiter  
Coordinator of Design &  
Development  
BLaST IU17-Williamsport

Alice Davis, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Susquehanna County Career &  
Technology Center

Annette Donovan  
Former Youth Participant

Jennifer Farley  
Administrator of Educational  
Services  
Northern Tier Career Center

Rebecca Gibboney  
Coordinator of Professional  
Learning  
BLaST IU17-Williamsport

Jackie Johnson  
Community Member

Gary Martell  
Director  
Northern Tier Career Center

Jill Payne  
WIOA Manager  
Adams & Associates/Red Rock Job  
Corps

Lori Rahn  
Juvenile Probation Officer  
Bradford County

Breanna Repard  
Workforce Development Director  
The Trehab Center

Theresa Steele  
Parent of Youth Participant

Penne Watkins  
Executive Director  
Bradford County Action

Debra Wivell  
Administrator  
UPMC Susquehanna

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Bonnie Warner, Equal Opportunity Officer

[eoofficer@northerntier.org](mailto:eoofficer@northerntier.org)

570-265-9103 or toll-free 888-868-8800 / TDD/TTY PA Relay 711

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission

312 Main Street

Towanda, PA 18848

