

Creating Better Financial Futures

Greater Fairfield Regional Meeting
Connecticut Asset Building Collaborative

October 18, 2017 9am to 12pm

Housatonic Community College Event Center, Beacon Hall Room 214, Bridgeport

Free parking

- 9:00 to 9:30 **Continental breakfast and networking**
Welcome - Pam Pirog, Chair, Business Department, Housatonic Community College
- 9:30 to 9:45 **Welcome**
- Annie Harper, [Connecticut Mental Health Center](#)
 - Joyce Armstrong, [CT Dept of Rehabilitation Services](#) and Cassandra DeFelice, [Community Action Agency of New Haven](#)
- 9:45 to 10:30 **Speed Networking**
- Get to know your colleagues
 - Learn about opportunities for collaboration and partnership
- Break**
- 10:40 to 11:05 **Education and Training Opportunities to Create Brighter Financial Futures**
- Alese Mulvihill, Director of [Family Economic Security Program \(FESP\)](#) /Grant Manager of SNAP and Forward Program, Housatonic Community College
Alese's professional experience includes 10 years in Higher Education working in Residence Life, Student Services, Advising, Student Activities and First Year Programs. She has 5 years in state grant management experience with Job First Employment Service and Empowering People for Success Programs. She holds a Master in Counseling from Central Connecticut State University, and has her bachelor's from Southern Connecticut State University.
 - Rich DuPont, [Advanced Manufacturing Center](#), Housatonic Community College
Rich DePont has been working in several capacities at Housatonic Community College since 2014 that have included Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology Program, as Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and as Executive Director of the Housatonic Community College Foundation. His experience stems from a long career in family based business, manufacturing and as a highly respected consultant in Development, Energy Management and Continuous Improvement. As President of his company, Resource Development Associates, he has built partnerships with the CT Departments of Labor, Economic and Community Development, Higher Education and the Regional Workforce Investment Offices.
- 11:05 to 11:30 **Partnerships with Banks and Credit Unions to Improve Financial Stability of Low/Moderate Income Consumers**
- Chris Whalen, [Save to Win](#), Credit Union League of CT

Chris Whalen is the Director of Marketing and Consumer Awareness for the Credit Union League of Connecticut. Chris holds a B.S. in Marketing and an MBA from the University of New Haven. Results driven and passionate about marketing, Chris heads many initiatives at the League, including the Connecticut Save to Win prize-linked savings program. Credit unions are the only financial institutions in Connecticut offering an alternative to lottery, helping consumers build incremental savings habits. In a time when many people in our state cannot afford to fix a flat tire without going into debt, Save to Win gives an incentive to save with the chance to win up to \$5,000 per quarter for saving money in a free account.

- Lily Lopez, Citi Safe Account, [Citi Community Development](#)
Lily Lopez joined Citi in 2000 and has served in various roles. Currently, Lily is Senior Vice President of Citi Community Development for Connecticut, Westchester, Bronx and Puerto Rico. In this position, Lily leads Citi's commitment to achieve economic empowerment for underserved individuals, families and communities by expanding access to financial products and services, and building innovative partnerships. As the coordinator for all of Citi's community development activity, Lily works closely with community leaders and organizations and leverages Citi's business resources to help address local community needs.
- Donna Taglianetti, EARN Starter Saving Program, Consultant to [Connecticut United Ways](#)
Donna Taglianetti is a Nonprofit Planning and Organizational Development Consultant with significant experience in governance, planning, management, project design, fund raising and grant writing. She is known as an innovator with excellent creative problem solving and strategic thinking skills. She consults with community-based and other nonprofit organizations, philanthropic entities and state and local government. Her practice is focused on assisting organizations to develop and sustain effective organizational and programmatic strategies to meet customer need. The goal is to build the capacity of organizations and the people within them, to think strategically, respond effectively to change, stay focused on mission, and, most importantly, serve the community.

11:30 to
11:55

Overview of Workforce and Entrepreneurship Opportunities

- [The Workplace](#)
- Janet Siegenthaler, Manager of Business Counseling and Access to Capital, [Women's Business Development Council](#)
Janet is a finance executive with over twenty years of experience in commercial banking, marketing and corporate sales. Her expertise is helping entrepreneurial companies to obtain capital and achieve profitable growth. Janet's specialties include: new venture development, strategic planning, debt restructurings and turnarounds of small to mid-sized companies. At WBDC, Janet is responsible for managing the business financial counseling and training programs for entrepreneurs. Janet instructs WBDC's 12-session intensive business plan development program, which is held five times a year. She has also played an instrumental role in launching WBDC Capital Loan fund providing microloans to qualified small businesses.

11:55

Wrap Up