



Workforce Development Professionals are everywhere!



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NAWDP Advantage
August 2016

How did you get started in workforce development?

My journey into workforce development began as a customer of the system. After the school where I taught was shuttered due to budget constraints, I found myself a casualty of the mass layoffs. With a bachelor's degree and several years of experience, I began searching for my new career. I attended a mandatory PREP Orientation for newly unemployed individuals, which was held at the local OneStop. The orientation provided

me with strategies for finding employment including how to use the Commonwealth's online job portal, CWDS. After identifying a position as a Career Coach in a Title I program, I believed my previous experience and transferrable skills made me a good candidate for the job. I applied, interviewed, and was hired. I have been a workforce development professional ever since.

If you could give one piece of advice to a new workforce professional, what would it be?

I would advise a new workforce development professional to fully appreciate the opportunity we have to change the lives of others in a meaningful way. Assisting a jobseeker to identify a career pathway, acquire a new skillset, and obtain employment can

drastically improve the lifestyles of our customers and their families. By helping individuals reach their highest levels of success we can make a positive impact on the community, which I think is huge.

What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?

As a NAWDP member, I have access to resources and professional development opportunities that help me perform my day-to-day functions as a Program Manager. Whether it is a webinar on WIOA or a best practice in working with youth, the information available to me through NAWDP keeps me connected to

the latest trends in workforce development. experiences and best practices with other workforce development professionals from around the country.

Why did you apply for the CWDP?

I applied for my CWDP because I wanted to be recognized as an expert in the field of workforce development. We teach jobseekers that becoming

credentialed makes them more marketable to employers. Applying for the CWDP gave me the opportunity to "practice what I preach."