



Workforce Development Professionals are everywhere!



Lauren R. Bishop, M.S.
**PA CareerLink® Service
Enhancement Team Lead,
EDSI**
Philadelphia, PA

NAWDP Advantage
June 2016

How did you get started in workforce development?

I started in Workforce Development during my undergraduate studies. I was interested in unions and social justice. “Being the voice of the voiceless” was a phrase that resonated with me throughout my college experience and professional life, as I always had a passion for helping others attain their goals. I wanted to continue to provide inspiration to others and joined a

team eight years ago at an EARN Program. I led motivational workshops, case management, and providing assistance to job seekers with their job placement and life goals. Now, I am more behind the scenes, coordinating workshops for a system in Philadelphia and providing instructional support to my team.

What is the most exciting thing about being a Workforce Development Professional?

I love that I have the opportunity to be a part of a team that enhances the skills of our job seekers to better compete in today’s labor market. It is awesome to hear an employer state that the skills that they are looking for in a potential applicant are what we are offering in our skills and training programs on a daily basis within the system. Also, I work with such a great team. EDSI

allows me to be a part of the selection process for some of our team members — when you have team members that live the core values of your company, it makes my job as a team leader less stressful and effective, knowing we are providing the best services to our job seekers.

What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?

I thoroughly enjoyed the presentations provided by the leadership and mentors of NAWDP. It is great to learn best practices across the nation during the presentations, and also have moments to share my experiences. My mentors during this process have been

enlightening, as I continue to learn more about workforce development and my own career path. It is incredible to see that there are so many professionals my age making a difference within the system.

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

For me, this advice is very personal as many mentors have shared this with me: “live in the moment.” At times, I only stick to my “to-do list” and what’s next on my “action steps list” and not celebrate any of my successes. I am learning to live in the present and not

worry about past mistakes. Learn from them, continue to grow as a professional, and network. My mentors provide such a realistic picture that my journey in workforce development is just starting, and I am going to enjoy the ride.