

Learn & Earn

WIOA Newsletter

Vol. 24, Issue I

Summer 2025

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Emily Shaban
Perry

Emily Shaban is keeping the grooming shop spotless at Lori Loves Pets.



Kennedy Kolodica
Corunna

Kennedy Koldica is scheduling appointments at Studio Hue Salon and Boutique.



Cameron Young
New Lothrop

Cameron Young is helping Junction of Hope prepare for the lunch crowd.

Opening Day Training

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) work program has partnered with the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program. This exciting collaboration increases opportunities for students to receive training, engage in career exploration activities, and gain paid work experiences.

Our summer kick-off began with a training session at the Shiawassee RESD on July 8th. During this training, students learned valuable information about being effective employees and identified the unique skills and personal traits they bring to their summer work experiences.



Students participated in the Financial Reality Fair presented by LAFUCU. This real-life simulation game assigned students a monthly income based on their chosen career. They navigated different stations, making choices about housing, utilities, groceries, transportation, and insurance. Additionally, students had the opportunity to decide on extras such as entertainment, clothing, and dining out. At the end of the simulation, they met with a financial counselor to discuss budgeting and saving money. The experience helped students understand the difference between needs and wants, as well as how their education, career, and life choices will impact their futures.

Each student also had a one-on-one meeting with their case manager to review information specific to their individualized worksite placements. Other topics covered throughout the day included workplace safety, employer expectations, hygiene, how to handle workplace scenarios, and what to expect on their first day of work. By the end of the day, students felt excited and ready to begin their four-week community-based work experiences.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program has been successfully helping Shiawassee County students for over ten years. The WIOA Youth Program is a federal grant training program providing paid work experiences for 14-21 year-old high school students.



Shiawassee

Regional Education Service District

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Memorie Riley
Owosso

Memorie Riley is attending to the Shiawassee County Humane Society kittens.



Jackson MacKay
Corunna

Jackson MacKay is keeping Magoo's Pet Outlet looking great.



Brooklyn Kayanek
Corunna

Brooklyn Kayanek is supporting the grounds crew at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds.



Joshua Spencer
Corunna

Joshua Spencer is contributing to class-room preparation with the Owosso Public School's maintenance team.



Joel Phend
Perry

Joel Phend is keeping vehicles looking their best at Lunghamer Ford in Perry.



Lestat Delong
Owosso

Lestat Delong is assisting the maintenance department at Memorial Healthcare.



Joseph Jacobs
New Lothrop

Joseph Jacobs is supporting the grounds crew at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds.



Emma Pugh
Corunna

Emma Pugh is helping stock shelves at Family, Farm and Home.



Charleigh Matthews
Durand

Charleigh Matthews is caring for pets at Fairview Pet Center.

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Rory Aebersold
Owosso

Photo (left): Rory Aebersold is assisting the technology department at Durand Area Schools.

Photo (right): Brady Reed helps keep the shelves stocked at Gilbert's True Value.



Brady Reed
Corunna

Thank you for opening the door to new opportunities for WIOA students.

- Carquest Auto Parts (Perry)
- Durand Area Schools
- Fairview Pet Center
- Family, Farm and Home (Corunna)
- Gilbert's True Value
- Junction of Hope
- Lori Loves Pets
- Lunghamer Ford (Perry)
- Magoo's Pet Outlet
- Memorial Healthcare Dietary Dept.
- Memorial Healthcare Maintenance Dept.
- Owosso Public Schools
- Shiawassee County Fair
- Shiawassee County Humane Society
- Studio Hue Salon and Boutique



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Summer Wrap-Up and JMG Launch Celebration

On August 1st, students returned to the SRES D to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the valuable skills they gained through their summer work experiences. This event also marked the official launch celebration for the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program. During the celebration, students were welcomed into JMG, received certificates recognizing their commitment, and enjoyed sweet treats to commemorate the beginning of this new opportunity.

JMG is dedicated to equipping Michigan's youth for success in the classroom and workforce. Key aspects of the JMG program include:

- Career Exploration
- Mentorship and Support
- Post-Secondary Success
- Skill Development
- Community Involvement

The day concluded with a student-led community service project at the Shiawassee County Humane Society. Students created enrichment activities for the animals and spent quality time socializing with the cats and dogs. This was a fun and fulfilling way to give back to the community and wrap up a positive summer employment program.

