



SUMMER NEWS FLASH

Pennsylvania Women Work

Thought Leadership Blog



The situation with COVID-19 has impacted almost everyone's way of work. But it may have also taught you more about the company for which you work. Jennifer Turner writes about "[Navigating workplace culture and determining your values](#)" in this month's blog post.

Circle of Hope 2020 update

PA Women Work goes virtual



Since March, our lives have significantly changed due to COVID-19 – both personally and professionally. With thousands of local people left unemployed, this situation has challenged us, as an organization, to adjust quickly and creatively to meet the new needs.

Enter, new virtual services and classes.

New Choices has success online

Thanks to the tremendous efforts from our staff, volunteers and partners, New Choices is now up and running virtually. We launched our first online class in May. Within 48 hours of opening registration, we already had a waitlist.

After this successful launch, we got to work scheduling more virtual classes – with the most recent taking place just last week.

The virtual classes are taking place using Zoom. Participants join for two hours a day for a full week and get help revising their resumes, learn stress management tactics, gain access to new job opportunities, practice interviewing, and develop strategies for job



As most organizations have found that host a large, in person event, we've needed to shift gears with the planning of our annual awards event, Circle of Hope. Each year, we pull together supporters, funders, friends, and volunteers to celebrate the achievements of our outstanding clients. It's always an inspirational evening. Unfortunately, we won't be able to gather as we have in previous years. We are working hard to pull together plans to implement some of our favorite aspects of Circle of Hope -- into several different online events and opportunities.

We are looking for a group of enthusiastic volunteers to help us reimagine our fall event into something truly exceptional and new. If you are interested in getting involved, please send an email to Kristin Ioannou at kioannou@pawomenwork.org.

You can win big with #WinItWednesday!



Our #WinItWednesday Raffle drawing has been rescheduled for June 24, when we'll be pulling all of our prizes. Participating in our raffle is a quick, easy and fun way to give back to your community...

searching during a pandemic. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we've still been able to host guest speakers to connect with our clients, as well.

In the coming months, we plan to host more classes locally and team up with partners across the state to reach other communities, as well. If you or someone you know would like to sign up, please visit www.pawomenwork.org/upcoming-classes.

Brew your own coffee and join 3 Cups of Coffee at home

Earlier this year, you read about us in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) outlining our virtual model for 3 Cups of Coffee. That couldn't have come at a better time, as we have moved all of our 3 Cups of Coffee meetings to a virtual format for the time being.

Both 3 Cups of Coffee and our 3 Cups of Coffee GRAD program with CCAC have seen an influx of new clients. Many new job seeking mentees have reached out, but we've also seen growth in our mentor list, as professionals are looking for ways to give back during this time.

"We met virtually over the phone," said Nina Santa, a 3 Cups of Coffee GRAD mentee. "All three meetings went really well, and my mentor was very helpful in making connections with people that can be helpful to me. She gave me ideas on how to approach my job search in this new normal."

If you'd like to learn more about 3 Cups of Coffee, please email twilliams@pawomenwork.org.

Next up: Customer Service First-Class

As we continue to navigate this situation, we are working hard to meet the needs of job-seekers. We know that short-term training programs help provide the skills needed to stand out in the crowd of job applications. We will be rolling out a new virtual Customer Service First-Class session this summer, which will provide graduates with a certificated credential from DDI. Watch for more information coming soon.

Join in the recovery and continue to help those in need

Now more than ever, job seekers need these resources to help them get back to work. Our programs and services are helping job seekers on their paths to stability and success with critical professional development opportunities.

You can help the unemployed become the employed. [Invest in our Back to Work fund today](#). A gift of any size will make a difference.

Finding her way back to Pennsylvania Women Work

Ten years ago, Ebony L. Dendy, a Veteran and single mom of a three-year-old son, moved to Pittsburgh to be closer to her family. Shortly after, Ebony was laid off.

and possibly win something for yourself along the way! To see all of the prizes and purchase your tickets [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to J. Jill Compassion Fund

the j.jill compassion fund

CONNECTION. COMMITMENT. COMMUNITY.

Mentoring changes lives. We are honored to connect women with one another to help build their networks, work together to discover goals and ultimately find family-sustaining employment.

Thank you to the J. Jill Compassion Fund, a donor advised fund of the Boston Foundation, for their support of our 3 Cups of Coffee program. With assistance from them, hundreds of mentees have found a path to a brighter future.

Thank you to FedEx Ground



"Having my mentor to talk to about where I want my career to go and which organizations I may want to work for – really just having a professional sounding board -- was incredibly valuable. My mentor helped me choose to take the internship where I am now employed full-time."

-Julia, former mentee

With support from FedEx Ground, we're able to reach more women



"I was really scared. I had never been laid off before. I was in a really bad place. I felt worthless," she remembered.

Ebony was introduced to Pennsylvania Women Work and participated in New Choices and Customer Service.

Following, she completed her Master's in Business at Point Park University. This set her life on a fast track to success for the next ten years. She was

recognized for her achievements as a Pennsylvania Women Work Woman of Courage at our Circle of Hope Awards Dinner in 2017.

For the last several years, Ebony worked as a contracted technical project manager and business analyst. She began a job search for a more permanent full-time position at the beginning of 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I kept getting second interviews, but no job offers. For me, that was a big red flag. After the pandemic began, I took it as a reset all the way around," Ebony said.

Ebony saw PA Women Work was now offering New Choices virtually, so she signed up. "Even the second time through, I learned so much," Ebony explained.

Having taken both PA Women Work's in-person and online versions of New Choices, Ebony is able to offer a perspective on the effectiveness of each method. "I always sang the program's praises then and I still would do so now. This class has built up confidence and it has also made me more aware of myself," Ebony said.

Now, Ebony has a revised resume and a new sense of confidence going back into her job search. She's learned new strategies for applying for jobs in a digital age, such as updating her LinkedIn, applying and interviewing for jobs virtually, and using key words to search for available positions.

Next, she is moving forward with PA Women Work's 3 Cups of Coffee program. She's excited to get started with her virtual mentor and see where her job search takes her next.

Highmark Walk - Thank you and let's keep going!

like Julia with our 3 Cups of Coffee program. Thank you, FedEx Ground for your continued assistance with this life-changing program.

Join our social community



Stay up-to-date with everything going on at Pennsylvania Women Work by joining us on our social media channels! Every day, we share stories from our clients, resources for career development, job postings, volunteer opportunities, and more!



This year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community went virtual. Thank you to our team captains and walkers who worked with this situation and continued to raise funds for PA Women Work.

A special shout out to our board member, Marcia Oglan, and her entire team for raising more than \$2,000. "I walked for PA Women Work as a symbol of empowerment for women. I believe that each person should have the confidence and opportunities to be their best self and PA Women Work enables that," Marcia said.

To Marcia's team, and all of you who contributed so far to our Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community campaign: thank you! Your efforts will help more job seekers on their paths to achieving success.

You can still fundraise through the end of June. To donate, [click here now.](#)

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