



## SUMMER NEWS FLASH

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK

### Thought Leadership Blog



Interviewing for jobs is hard enough, but in the past year, we've all had to take this challenge one step further and adapt to virtual interviews. Victoria McIntyre, Governance, Risk and Compliance Consultant with Layer 8 Security, and a PA Women Work volunteer, offers tips to make sure your next virtual interview is a success.

[Read the blog here!](#)

### Circle of Hope 2021



### ***Kristin Ioannou named PA Women Work's Executive Director***



[Julie Marx-Lally](#), PA Women Work's CEO of nearly ten years, announced her retirement earlier this year. Thanks to her leadership, PA Women Work grew from a one-program organization to a robust workforce development agency with a larger operating

budget and staff. Julie's last day with our organization will be June 30, 2021.

We are pleased and excited to announce that Kristin Ioannou, current Deputy Director, will assume the role of Executive Director. Kristin has been with the organization since 2002 when she signed on as a volunteer and member of the Corporate Advisory Committee. She joined our staff as Deputy Director almost a decade ago. In this role, she worked alongside Julie throughout her tenure and supports all aspects of the organization's operations.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to lead an organization that I have been passionate about and devoted to for nearly 20 years," Kristin said. "I look forward to building upon what has been created to best meet the needs of job-seekers across the state."

Kristin aims to ensure women and at-risk populations are provided equal opportunities in the workforce, have access to trainings and professional networks, and receive the

**Save the date**

We are pleased to announce that we are planning to host our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Circle of Hope Awards Dinner in person on October 12, 2021 at the Westin Pittsburgh.

More information on the event will be coming soon!

**Volunteers needed**

Want to lend a hand? We're looking for volunteers to join our event planning committee! Our first meeting will take place July 7. Reach out to Abby Swalga at [aswalga@pawomenwork.org](mailto:aswalga@pawomenwork.org) to sign up today.

**Award nominations open!**

Nominations for the Diversity and Inclusion Award and the Honorary Woman of Courage Award are now open. [Click here](#) for more information and to submit your nomination!

**Spring Fundraising****#WinItWednesday**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's #WinItWednesday Raffle. All proceeds from this raffle went directly toward supporting our clients on their paths to success.

*A special thank you to Mike Oplinger for donating his Deep Creek cabin for the Raffle!*

**Highmark Walk**

support they need to find jobs where they can achieve financial security and career growth.

With a strong background in communications and development, Kristin also hopes to expand our partnerships and overall visibility of the organization. "I don't want to be the 'best kept secret,'" Kristin said, "I want to expand awareness of the life-changing services we provide."

Prior to her time at PA Women Work, Kristin worked in the corporate sector and gained experience in corporate communications, community relations, human resources, project management, and more. She will step into the Executive Director position on July 1, 2021. Additionally, Susan Showalter-Bucher, current Director of Programs, will become the organization's Deputy Director.

**Support for job seekers continues in Northview Heights**

In July 2019, PA Women Work launched an initiative to bring our career development services to the residents of Northview Heights. Once home to almost exclusively native Pittsburgh residents, the community has expanded to include refugees and immigrants from across the world.

"Northview Heights is a beautifully diverse neighborhood. We have been fortunate to be welcomed by local residents as well as the immigrant and refugee community," said Susan Showalter-Bucher, Director of Programs. "Serving the community through individualized intensive job readiness training, resume development, mocking interviewing, and job placement services has allowed us to more fully meet the unique needs of all Northview Heights residents."

Working closely with several organizations including the Arthur J. Edmunds Family Support Center, Somali Bantu Community Association of Pittsburgh, and the United Somali Bantu, Pennsylvania Women Work hosted a successful series of workshops, including Customer Service First-Class and Entrepreneurship for All. Additionally, residents took part in the Northstar certification program gaining valuable software skills that resulted in participants receiving a new laptop upon completion.

"We have had great success with residents taking advantage of both our individualized services and workshops," Susan continued. "We feel privileged to be a partner and resource to the Northview Heights community and look forward to continuing to serve its residents."

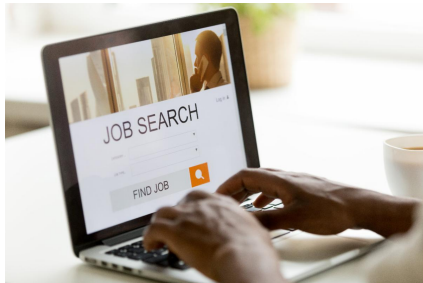
To learn more about our work in Northview Heights and other communities, contact Susan Showalter-Bucher at [sbucher@pawomenwork.org](mailto:sbucher@pawomenwork.org).

Time is running out for you to participate in this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community and make an impact. Fundraising goes through July 15, so don't wait another minute. You can start your own team, join someone else's team, or simply make a donation.

[Click here](#) to get started now or contact Abby Swalga at [aswalga@pawomenwork.org](mailto:aswalga@pawomenwork.org) to learn more.

**GIVE NOW**

## Upcoming classes



### New Choices

Jump start your job search today! [Sign up](#) for our FREE New Choices program and boost your resume, practice interviewing, build your confidence, and more.

- July 6-9, 9:30 a.m-12 p.m., 1-3:30 p.m., 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- July 19-23, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.

### Client Support Services

Already taken New Choices but need a little more support to land that next job? We got you covered. [Join us](#) for one of the below opportunities to get things on track.

- Mindful Career Exploration: July 12
- Virtual Mock Interviews: July 1
- A Closer Look: July 6
- Employer Meet and Greets: July 21

## Ending the job hunt thanks to mentorship: Hanna's story



Hanna was looking for jobs in all the wrong places. Her search for employment was at a standstill, and she was in need of guidance on what to do next.

She signed up for 3 Cups of Coffee, and her mentor, Beth, helped her turn her job hunt around. Together, they connected Hanna's skills with the right job openings. Ultimately, Hanna found a job she loves. [Watch](#) Hanna share her story by clicking on her video above.

*Special thank you to the J. Jill Compassion Fund, a donor advised fund of the Boston Foundation. Their support and generosity of 3 Cups of Coffee make success stories like Hanna's possible. Additional funders of 3 Cups of Coffee include Jack Buncher Foundation, PNC Charitable Trusts, FedEx Ground, and Arconic Foundation.*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jennifer Turner



About three years ago, Jennifer Turner signed up as a 3 Cups of Coffee mentor. "I have had some great mentors in my life and wanted to give back," Jennifer recalled.

Since becoming a mentor, Jennifer has made a huge difference for our clients. "I mentored a woman reentering the workforce, and we worked together on how to properly answer behavior-based

interview questions and discussed what employers are looking for during an interview," Jennifer remembered. "After just two cups of coffee, she successfully gained employment."



[Register now.](#)

## Current volunteer opportunities



Looking to make a difference? We have a variety of VIRTUAL volunteer opportunities where you can give back from the comfort and safety of your own home. [Sign up today.](#)

- Mock Interviews
- Mentor
- Present to our clients
- Fundraising
- Event committee

## Thank you to our funders!

Our RISE program helps educated refugees and immigrants navigate the American workplace and job application process. This program is made possible with support from the **Marinus & Minna B. Koster Foundation.**

Jennifer not only mentors, she is a member of our Corporate Advisory Committee, conducts virtual mock interviews for clients, has written a blog post for our website, and helps promote our work whenever she can.

"Volunteering with PA Women Work is a great opportunity to help others. Not only has the organization impacted so many of their clients' lives, through volunteering I have improved my own resume, developed my professional network and boosted my self-esteem, as well," Jennifer said. "It is a wonderful feeling to be at the point of my career where I can give back."

Volunteers like Jennifer make our work possible. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, [sign up](#) for one of our opportunities today!

## Congratulations to our new LDI graduate



Leadership Pittsburgh's Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) is an eight-month innovative and creative leadership training program designed for high potential young professionals. Taneshya Williams, Senior Program Manager, 3 Cups of Coffee, was accepted among many applicants to participate in this year's program and graduated this month.

"This experience has helped me be aware of my leadership style and strengths, and it has helped me better understand and interact with my employees and colleagues," Taneshya explained.

For the last eight months, Taneshya met virtually with a group of 60 professionals also accepted into LDI. They participated in leadership trainings, professional development and networking activities, and completed a Community Impact Project.

Now that Taneshya has completed the LDI training, she is looking forward to putting her new skills to work and hopes to join a local Board of Directors.

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