

EMPOWERMENT IN ACTION

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK | SEPTEMBER 2026

Thought Leadership Blog



Your **career throughline** is the thread that connects experiences that may look unrelated on paper into a meaningful story about who you are and how you work. Check out our volunteer Julie Kuhns' [most recent blog post](#) to learn how you can use your "career throughline" to advance your career.

Get your tickets!

Circle of Hope

10.29.26 | BUY TICKETS

Let's CELEBRATE! We hope you can join us for our 25th Annual Circle of Hope Awards

Evolving to meet the needs of today's workforce

We believe the best way to support job seekers is to **listen**, **learn**, and **evolve** alongside them. The workforce is constantly changing, and so are we! This summer, we launched several new programs and initiatives to fit the growing needs of our professional community.

Bringing career resources to the community



In August, we partnered with the **Laurel Highland Workforce & Opportunity Center (LHWOC)** for Career Kick-Start, a one-day event to

learn critical job-search readiness skills.

Attendees took part in career development workshops, received professional headshots, participated in mock interviews, and connected with PA Women Work career coaches.

"Before Career Kick-Start, I didn't know where to start. Now I have a resume I'm proud of, I can handle tough interview questions, and I even learned about healthcare career paths I didn't know existed," a participant of this Career Kick-Start event said.

We thank **EQT** Foundation for supporting this initiative and helping us bring meaningful career resources to more job seekers.

Dinner on October 29. [Tickets are on sale now!](#)

Back to School



A huge thank you to **EQT Corporation** for joining us to pack and organize nearly 150 backpacks for more than 40 PA Women Work families, filled with school supplies generously provided by **CentiMark Corporation**. Your time, energy, and generosity are helping set our families up for success this back-to-school season.

Awards & Recognition



PWW is honored to be recognized for the strength of our organization and our team. We were named the **Organization Winner at the Girls Inc. of Greater Pittsburgh 12th Annual Strong Awards**. For the second year, we are a **finalist for Pittsburgh Business Times' Best Places to Work**.

Upcoming classes

Expanding Financial Wellness

Career success and financial stability are deeply connected, which is why we are grateful to our partners at PNC Bank for hosting our monthly Financial Wellness workshops. Building on popular sessions on budgeting, debt management, credit reports, and home buying, this virtual workshop series now offers even more practical guidance, including preparing for financial emergencies, protecting against identity theft, and starting a business.

"Financial wellness can mean having the confidence and flexibility to pursue the right opportunity rather than just the next paycheck," said Jessica Boston, Director of Programs at PA Women Work. "It can also mean the resilience to weather a gap between jobs and the know-how to negotiate offers, manage new income, or even launch a business of their own."

Launching Next Chapter Career Circle



Our new **Next Chapter Career Circle** launched in June and created a space for women aged 50 and older

who are job searching or navigating a career transition.

Meeting monthly, participants take part in developmental workshops, reflection, connection, and peer support. Between sessions, they set goals, celebrate progress, and encourage one another along the way.

Our participants are seeing real momentum in their job searches — from a new hire, to interviews for higher-paying and remote opportunities, to several candidates progressing through multiple rounds with employers. We're also seeing participants who were once hesitant to apply now confidently putting themselves out there. These are the kinds of wins that show the power of our career coaching and programs!

We are grateful to **Citizens** for supporting this initiative as part of our Next Chapter Careers Program and helping experienced job seekers navigate their next chapter with confidence.

AI in the Workplace

Thanks to the University of Pittsburgh's support with curriculum, we offered two workshops this summer to



New Choices

Bi-Weekly, M-F

- [October 5-9](#) | 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- [October 19-23](#) | 6-8:45 p.m.
- [November 2-6](#) | 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Communicating with Impact

September 26 | 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Navigating Beyond Conflict

October 3 | 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Client Support Services

Already a current or former PA Women Work client? You're eligible to [participate in the following opportunities](#) to help continue on your path to success.

Financial Wellness

[Identity Theft](#)

September 29 | 10 - 11:00 a.m.

[Mock It 'Til You Rock It](#)

October 2 | 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

A Closer Look

[Using LinkedIn and Social Media in the Job Search](#)

October 20 | 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Volunteer Needs



Ready to make a difference in the lives of women across Pennsylvania?



support participants in using AI to their benefit - in their job searches, day-to-day lives, and in the workplace.

Introduction to Generative AI introduced participants to the basics, including identifying AI-generated content and practicing effective prompts. A Closer Look: Using AI in Your Job Search explored how employers are using AI in recruitment and shared practical strategies for using it to strengthen applications and make the job search more efficient.

Discovering a place to belong: Dakota's story



After working in the labor-intensive field of bicycle repair, Dakota was ready for something different. She wanted stability, room to grow, and a career that would allow her to build a future.

As a trans woman, Dakota was also looking

for a workplace where she could feel accepted, respected, and supported as her full self. She connected with PA Women Work and began working with Shanyn Winnowski, a PWW career coach, to navigate her next steps.

"It all started with choosing the right industry," said Dakota. "I knew I wanted a job that allowed me to do more than just survive, but what was the actual next step?"

Together, Dakota and Shanyn explored paths that aligned with her goals while building on the skills and experience she had gained throughout her professional journey. Throughout the process, the PWW team encouraged and accepted Dakota, helping her see what was possible.

Dakota made a plan to pursue a career in medical records and administration. Today, she works at a wellness outreach organization serving the LGBT community, in a role where her skills and experiences are truly valued.

"I feel like I actually have a career," said Dakota. "It's wild to have a career, pride, stability, and feel confident."

Dakota left PA Women Work with a new understanding of what she deserves and what is possible for her future:

"I'm allowed to have nice things, I'm allowed to be

- Join us as a volunteer with PA Women Work! Reach out to Lizzi Holmes at eholmes@pawomenwork.org to get started and be part of meaningful change.
- We're seeking **donations of wine** valued at \$25+ or gift cards valued at \$25 or \$50 to support this year's Circle of Hope. Email bfussner@pawomenwork.org.

Thank you, funders!

We are deeply grateful to **The Heinz Endowments** for supporting PA Women Work's efforts to expand career development opportunities for young adults aged 18–24. With a focus on high-demand healthcare careers, participants in the program gain access to opportunities offering livable wages, advancement, and long-term stability.

Thank you to The Heinz Endowments for investing in the future of our region's workforce and the young adults who will help shape it.

middle class. As a trans woman, that isn't something I always felt was true."

Volunteer spotlight: PNC Bank



PNC Bank's employees and their support touch nearly every part of our mission. Their volunteers serve as mentors who build confidence and professional networks, mock interviewers who provide real-world

interviewing practice and advice, financial wellness trainers who equip participants with practical money-management skills for long-term stability, and so much more.

"As a volunteer, I feel like part of the team and enjoy sharing what I've learned throughout my career," said Kim Reilly, PNC employee and PWW volunteer. "Building connections is important, and sometimes it's just about being there to listen to what someone is going through and figuring out how to make a connection for them, review materials or meet to have a cup of coffee."

Beyond direct programming, PNC employees are also members of our Board of Directors providing strategic guidance and Volunteer & Ambassador Council where they support community events and administrative tasks. Their multifaceted partnership strengthens our programs and helps participants take meaningful steps toward lasting career success.

Photo shout-out: A big thank-you to Board Member Ron McCloskey and our PNC volunteers who spent a July afternoon packing hygiene kits for our ReWork clients and supporting a fundraising mailer.

Pennsylvania Women Work
5607 Baum Boulevard, Suite 333
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-742-4362
Email: info@pawomenwork.org
Web: www.pawomenwork.org





Pennsylvania Women Work | 5607 Baum Boulevard Suite 333 | Pittsburgh, PA 15206 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!