

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CareerSource Tampa Bay honors Summer Job participants and employers

~Six young adults to be awarded~

TAMPA, FL – CareerSource Tampa Bay’s (CSTB) Summer Job Connection (SJC) honored the program’s top participants at a special awards ceremony on Friday, August 27, 2021. The event was held at the Hyatt House located at 5308 Avion Park in Tampa at 5:00 p.m.

There were three distinct participation models: the first was the **Paid Work Experience**, which paid \$12.00 per hour for a maximum of 30-hours per week from June 14 to August 6, 2021. The second, **Career Exploration** was a weekly incentive-based model which guided the 290 participants who choose this track through a series of modules for four weeks that would assist them in making an informed decision regarding a career path. The third track, **The Young Leaders of Tomorrow**, was in its inaugural year, and was a six-week workshop-based model that allowed the 16 participants to explore leadership in unique ways.

“I am extremely proud of the 2021 Summer Job Connection,” said CSTB CEO, John Flanagan. “My Team has done a fantastic job this year with helping the youth of Tampa Bay kickstart their careers and learn more about the skills they need in the professional world. We could not have been successful without the great support of our partners which included private businesses of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County School District and Hillsborough County Government.”

There were 2,460 youth applicants for the 2021 Summer Job Connection and 142 employer applications. In all, 1,050 positions were filled. Youth hired for the SJC were paired up with career counselors who worked with them on a variety of job seeking skills, including updating their resume, appearance for the job, interviewing skills, life budgeting and career development.

Host worksites including the Hillsborough County School District, the County’s largest employer. Four Employer companies and six youth participants are receiving awards this year.

Award Recipients: This program was designed to recognize and reward youth and employers who successfully completed the SJC program and employers who helped their participants accomplish great feats.

- Articia Pride received the **Shining Star Award**, recognizing a SJC participant who stood out as a shining star during the program by consistently exceeding expectations.
- Hillsborough County Schools received the **Worksite Excellence Award**, in recognition of an SJC partner's dedication to embracing the overarching goal of the program and being a fantastic partner.
- Jaron Paulk received **The Beacon of Hope Award**, recognizes an SJC intern that faced personal adversity and hardship during their participation in the program and persevered in the midst of adversity against all odds.
- The Boys and Girls Club was honored with **The Making a Difference Award**, in recognition of an SJC Worksite Supervisor who truly poured into an SJC intern, going above and beyond to inspire the youth to excel during their internship
- The Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa Inc.- **Worksite Hero Award**, recognizes an SJC Worksite Supervisor who truly poured into an SJC intern, going above and beyond to inspire the youth to excel during their internship.

Leadership Award: Chelsea Delancy and Bishoi Bagheri received the Leadership Award which recognizes an SJC participant in the Young Leaders of Tomorrow Leadership Academy who consistently exhibited leadership qualities, characteristics, and traits. This young adult embodied the essence of leadership through participation in all the individual and team activities, attentively participated during guest speakers and panel presentations. They encouraged and inspired their peers.

Worksite Hero: Worksite Hero and Shero recognizes an SJC intern, one male, one female, who displayed courage, and excelled during their participation in the Summer Job Connection 2021 program by channeling their inner superhero. These young adults consistently showed up, smiled, and supported their colleagues each and every day. The Worksite Hero Award will be presented to Leander Harrold and the Worksite Shero Award will go to Hedaia Mohmmad.

CSTB hopes to expand the SJC program in 2022. Registration for youth and businesses who want to participate will start in January 2022. Anyone with questions about the program can email Youth Director, Jennifer Wilson- Williams at wilsonj@careersourcetampabay.com

About CareerSource Tampa Bay

CareerSource Tampa Bay programs and initiatives are fully supported by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture as part of awards totaling \$19,293,411.

CareerSource Tampa Bay works with businesses and candidates to leverage their training, retraining, and competitive opportunities in the workforce. Career Source Tampa Bay serves more than 54,600 job candidates annually. CareerSource Tampa Bay, with our five career

centers is the single largest source of job candidates in the region from entry-level to executive-level candidates.

Businesses can access Career Source's wide range of services that include recruiting, training for new and existing employees, targeted hiring events, and retention support strategies. All resources and services are provided at no cost to both businesses and job candidates. Programs funded through CareerSource Tampa Bay are equal opportunity programs with auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Persons using TTY/TTD equipment use Florida Relay Service 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center network to learn more, visit www.careersourcetampabay.com.

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