Students with disabilities exploring their career options

New workshop helps young adults better prepare for job market

CLAIRE LOWE
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Anthony Austin hopes that after he completes high school, he can find a job in an office. With the help of a new pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS) workshop for students with disabilities, Austin will learn the skills he needs to make that happen.

“I was nervous at first,” said Austin, 20, a student at Atlantic City High School. Now, he said, he is excited. Referred to as pre-ETS, the workshops are now required as part of changes to a federal law in 2017. Grants were made available that year by the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development to organizations that could provide such services that would help students with developmental disabilities prepare for and get employment.

Mary Beth Preyer, an instructor at the Atlantic Center for Independent Living, which was one of several grant recipients in the region, said the students receive training on school and will be partnered with employers for additional experience.

Preyer said the use of pre-ETS programs is an emerging philosophy across the country. She said it is likely in response to public outcry for more visibility for people with disabilities and more diversity. She said the program addresses the question of what happens when the school bus stops coming. “What does my day look like?” asks a student, she said. “They get employment.”

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NFL PLAYOFFS SAINTS 20, EAGLES 14

New Orleans intercepts Foles late in game to seal win, end Birds’ reign as champions

MICHELLE BRUNETTI POST
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — The county will provide $600,000 over two years to further fund the operations of the National Aviation Research and Technology Park in the township.

The $300,000 a year will cover part of a contract with the New Jersey Innovation Institute to administer and market the park, as well as costs associated with running it, said Atlantic County Chief of Staff Howard Kyle.

The funds came from the county from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, and were then given to the Atlantic County Improvement Authority, which approved the disbursement at its meeting last week.

The ACUA has provided the $600,000.

South Jersey providers to open tobacco quit centers

NICOLE LEONARD
Staff Writer

After years of limited or no state money toward tobacco and smoking prevention services, South Jersey providers will use new funding to open centers and boost services to help people quit.

More than $11 million in a combination of state budget funds, state tobacco tax revenue and federal funding is being used to support existing programs and new quit centers, including ones at Inspira Medical Center Vineland, Cape Assist and Atlantic Prevention Resources.

“If people can quit smoking, it will improve their individual health and the population health,” said Brittany Raup, associate director of the New Jersey Innovation Institute.

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Atlantic County

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