

# WELCOME TO NETWORK2WORK@PVCC'S FIRST ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER!

Spring 2021

## WHATS NEW:

### New Tool Available

The Network2Work@PVCC database (The "Tool") will be DOWN between June 1 – June 3 in order to finalize the upgrade. The NEW Tool will be available beginning June 4.

### The Technology Platform (The "Tool") Training Video Now on the Website

Click [here](#) to see it!



## Employment and Jobs

At this time, Network2Work@PVCC is partnered with 186 employers in our region! Through these employers, Network2Work currently lists available positions offering over \$13,000,000 in available wages. There are a wide range of sustainable jobs available across the healthcare field, construction and trade industry, logistics, and hospitality industry, making it easy for job seeker(s) to decide on a career path that they will love. Currently, there are 156 job tickets open across these four sectors.



### HEALTHCARE

Multiple job openings with numerous employers are now available. Many of these positions both pay \$15.00 hour with benefits as well as offer job seekers a career pathway!



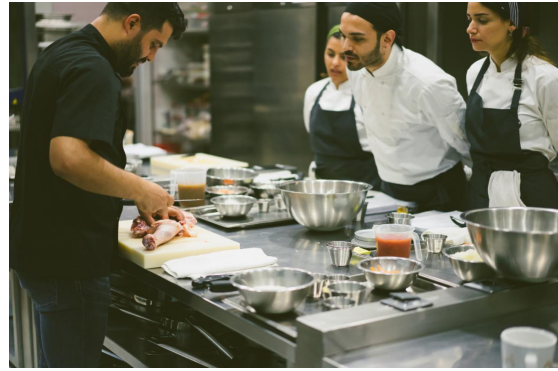
### CONSTRUCTION/ SKILLED TRADES

For any of your job seekers interested in the trades, please direct them to the University of Virginia Facilities Management Apprenticeship program.



## TRANSPORTATION/ LOGISTICS

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training and the certification exam are now being performed right at PVCC. There are numerous local and long-haul positions available.



## HOSPITALITY/SERVICES

With COVID restrictions about to be lifted, this sector is screaming for employees. Many of these positions are starting to offer a better wage and job seekers literally can have their pick of employer.

## What are the Different Types of Advocates?



### NAVIGATORS

As a Navigator, you will be connected to a job seeker in our network. In this volunteer position, you serve as a source of encouragement for your job seeker(s). It is also encouraged that you check in with your job seeker on a weekly basis. Navigators are also responsible for notifying the staff when their job seeker needs assistance.

[SEE MORE](#)

### CONNECTORS

Connectors are the foundation of Network2Work@PVCC. These individuals know the people who are striving to find quality jobs and are willing to reach out to those people and connect them to opportunities and resources.

[SEE MORE](#)



### PILOTS

Pilots in essence, are those of you who serve both roles as a *Connector* and a *Navigator*. Pilots register job seekers with us (like a *Connector*) and



then, are also willing to follow and encourage that job seeker along their pathway to employment (like a Navigator).

[SEE MORE](#)

## Advocate Spotlights

MARTIZE TOLBERT



### What do you like most about working with N2W?

I am a people person. I like working with partners and N2W is a great partner-responsive, available and has a holistic approach. I am all about engagement and connection and that's what N2W is about too.

### What does a typical day as an advocate look like?

EXHAUSTING! And also exhilarating. It fuels me. Helping others and reaching them where they are is my passion.

When people are coming home from being incarcerated they call me at The Fountain Fund and usually one of the first things they are looking for is employment. The first thing I do is connect them to N2W.

### What is the most rewarding aspect of being a volunteer?

Connecting individuals to the right resources is everything to me. A lot of times, people don't take the time to make the right connection. It's rewarding to make partnerships with other like-minded agencies and work on bridging the gaps for returning citizens.



I've also learned that to keep what I have, I have to give it away. That's how I refresh my work and my learning.

## NANCY KIDD



### What do you like most about working with N2W?

I love working with N2W because it meets people where they are and provides real time resources in the critical areas that create barriers to success. Challenges with stable housing, transportation, childcare, educational opportunities, and lack of personal support often limit one's ability to reach their full potential. N2W staff does an excellent job of identifying and addressing areas of need, providing guidance to essential resources, and freeing people up to move to the next step toward reaching their goals.

The training and wrap around support of N2W can provide a life changing experience for many who may have never earned a living wage. It has been my privilege to offer support and coaching to many who are self-sustaining years after completion of the N2W program.

### What does a typical day as an advocate look like?

An advocate becomes the "go to" person for both the job seeker and the N2W staff. Once a job track has been created, the job seeker may need to connect with many services to become successful. I receive notifications of appointments with childcare or other providers and support the job seeker by checking to see if there are any complications that would prevent them from attending. Advocates keep close check on class attendance, grades, and anything that may prohibit successful completion of training opportunities. It is rewarding to give support when challenges come, as they always will, and support the job seeker in resolving problems and moving toward accomplishment of their dreams.

### What is the most rewarding aspect of being a volunteer?

There are many rewards for being an advocate! I love walking the path of success with job seekers, encouraging them when they may feel like giving up, helping them to realize that with perseverance and hard work, they really can accomplish their dreams. It is great staying connected and seeing how the skills gained through N2W are providing the ability to be self-sustaining years after completion of the program. I

love the realization that giving this opportunity has the potential to impact several generations by giving a hand up out of the cycle of poverty. Working with N2W is just a win win all the way around!!

## What Your Job Seeker(s) Can Expect After You Register Them with Network2Work@PVCC

As an advocate, you are committed to helping your job seekers find a job that pays a decent wage and leads to a career. Once they have selected a job they want to pursue, you will work with them to identify the resources they may need to help them not only get the job—but keep it too. Resources such as training, quality childcare, reliable transportation, legal assistance, health care, and more, will be available to your Job Seekers to help them on their path to success. Once they are ready to apply for the job, we vouch for them with their chosen employer. We follow the saying, “It’s not just what you know, it’s who you know.”



### Meet our Enrollment Specialist, Alicia Zarzuela

Alicia is the staff member that enrolls all of the wonderful people you send us!

Alicia found herself at Network2Work@PVCC mid-pandemic. From her very first day, she has loved getting to know her co-workers, navigating her role as Network2Work's newest Enrollment Specialist, and meeting with job seekers. As the enrollment specialist, she has the opportunity to be the first to hear individual's stories and listen to their needs and desires, which drives her desire of making sure that they are connected to the right resources. Knowing she plays a role in helping the lives of those who come to Network2Work is the most rewarding part of her job!

In addition to making a difference, she loves being able to think creatively, work cohesively, and communicate actively with her job seekers and team! Not only does working virtually allow Alicia the opportunity to dress comfortably from her own home whenever she wants, but it has been very beneficial for her since she is also doing school virtually at VCU, where she is pursuing her Masters in Social Work.

Outside of work and school, Alicia takes care of her mind, body, and spirit through reading, writing, painting, and yoga.

From the amazing team she works with, to the eager job seekers she has the privilege to meet, she is so happy to be a part of Network2Work@PVCC!



## Thank you, Anne Spanos

Anne Spanos was our first ever Network2Work@PVCC advocate! After almost 3 years of volunteer service, Anne will be retiring from her work here with N2W. Anne was a tremendous help in multiple areas and will leave a positive impact on our program. Thank you, Anne, for your continuous kindness and dedication to Network2Work@PVCC. We wish you the best of luck moving forward!

## A Word From One of Our Navigators

University of Virginia first-year medical students are all required to take a course known as "Social Issues in Medicine" (SIM). This year, Network2Work@PVCC was honored to partner with Dr. Mohan Nadkarni and Tammy Prailey as they placed 12 medical students with us as "Navigators." First-year medical student Bradley Joseph summed up the wonderful opportunities each of his fellow students experienced as follows:

"When it comes down to it, being able to empathize with patients is what truly sets apart those physicians who are truly great doctors. Until you can understand where someone else is coming from, a patient in this case, you will not be able to do all that you can to help them. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Network2Work@PVCC Navigator as it helped me become a better doctor."

-Bradley Joseph, 1<sup>st</sup>-year UVA Medical Student



## Important Things to Note:

Clear your caches

The "Tool" is updated regularly and in order to have the most-up-to-date version, you should remember to "clear your caches" frequently! Click [here](#) for instructions on how to do so.

## If you get confused; let us know! Don't leave people hanging!

Please reach out to us at [network2work@pvcc.edu](mailto:network2work@pvcc.edu) if you get stuck with anything.

### Timeliness

Don't wait to register someone! Recently we had an Advocate wait a month to register a job seeker with us who was being kicked out of her hotel the next day! Our goal as Advocates is to lift up job seekers and get them into a position for success as soon as possible.

### "Next job" and "Stepping stone" jobs definitions

Advocates, you will notice in the "Note" line of several job tickets the following definitions:

*Next job* – A N2W "Next job" is one that is essentially more attainable by someone already having experience in this area and/or a training or certification beyond a basic entry level.

*Stepping stone* – A "Stepping stone" job designates those positions that pay less than \$12.50 per hour (to get a job seeker started with employment), a Part-time job or one that we believe a new Job seeker could learn some basic customer service and employment skills but not stay beyond a year or two.

We encourage you to connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn! Here you can read about all the latest job seeker success stories. Keep an eye out for Employee, Provider and Advocate spotlights as well. You could be featured next!

