



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE

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VTDC to Administer Erie Summer JAM 2015

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is pleased to announce the Venango Training and Development Center (VTDC) has been selected to administer the Erie Summer Jobs and More Program in 2015.

The Summer Jobs and More (JAM) Program was designed to enhance the employability of disconnected young people and give them practical exposure to future career paths. Launched in the spring of 2014, the JAM Program is a collaborative effort of the County of Erie, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and the Erie Community Foundation. The pilot project included soft-skills training and job placement. This year, the program will focus on short-term and long-term objectives by including longitudinal tracking to measure impact on the lives of the participants.

“Investing in our youth today can help alleviate the cycle of poverty in the years to come. We are proud to have the program advance from the pilot phase. Measuring our outcomes will allow us to gauge long-term impact for the advancement of our youth,” said County Executive Dahlkemper. She has asked Gary N. Lee, Director of Administration, to oversee this initiative for the County.

VTDC administered the inaugural program in 2014 with support from over 30 employers and over 120 eligible applicants aged 16 – 21 years. Summer JAM 2015 will include career readiness and exploration training with an increased focus on STEM-related and local high priority occupations. Participant and employer interviews, along with participant evaluation will be utilized to identify successes and challenges and develop mitigation strategies throughout the program.

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