



Connect to Work Experience

Aligned Partner Referral: Human Solutions.

Human Solutions mission is to assist low-income, homeless, families and individuals in gaining self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, family support services, job-readiness training, and economic development opportunities.

This customer had prior accounting and office experience in Russia. She was referred to Connect to Work Experience to provide her with an opportunity to gain recent work experience in the U.S. in order to showcase her bi-lingual skills and accounting background. The Work Experience Specialist (WES) worked in collaboration with Community Cycling Center (CCC) and a position for a Data Entry Guru was created for this individual. CCC is a 501(c) organization offering year-round bicycle education programs for low-income youth and adults. The WES advocated for this customer because of her language skills, prior work history, Associate's Degree from MHCC, strong work ethic, and her ability to learn proprietary accounting software. CCC agreed to take this customer on for the internship program, during which she not only proved her office expertise, but continued to add to her set of accounting skills, including GAAP principles and federal tax rules. She has participated in community events and assisted in the donation center where her fluency in Russian has proved its worth to the organization, as she was able to translate for Russian parents and children.

This customer is working 20 hours per week in the Connect to Work Experience program with Community Cycling Center while finishing her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at Portland State University.

Connect to Careers

Aligned Partner Referral: Housing Works Washington County.

Housing Works provides customers with vocational case management and stable housing.

The customer worked with the Housing Works VCM and WorkSource Employment Specialist who recommended various WorkSource products and assisted her through the training needed to become a Pharmacy Technician. Supportive services, such as gas vouchers, were provided to help her with transportation supports to testing and employment centers. With her Oregon Board of Pharmacy certificate in hand, she was referred to Connect to Careers with the goal of becoming a Pharmacy Technician in a retail pharmacy, and beyond that, to earn her national certification. Her Connect to Careers Job Developer contacted the regional manager of a major retail pharmacy chain and advocated for this customer. After reviewing her resume, he was very supportive of bringing her on as an intern to train her in their system.

Upon completion of the internship, the management was so pleased with her progress; they asked to keep her on to provide additional training. An On-the-Job training plan was developed specifically for her. As an employee of the pharmacy, she was now able to take on more responsibilities and learn more about pharmacy and store operations. Her supervisor has reported that she is doing a great job and enjoying the support and opportunity to learn at multiple locations. The company has also provided her with study materials needed for the National Certification exam. The customer continues to be successful in her career choice within a stable and supportive work environment of a well-established retailer making \$12.50/hour with full benefits.

We are open for referrals in all Connect to Services. For More Information please call: Suzanne Oliver, Director of Workforce Development at 503-772-2315 or via email at soliver@seworks.org.