

Warren, Watchung volunteers honored for work at job fair

Echoes~Sentinel

Published: May 15th, 4:50 AM

WARREN TWP. – Volunteers from Warren and Watchung who participated in the Career and Job Counseling Fair on Saturday, April 18, at Warren Middle School were given certificates of appreciation by Mayor Carol Ann Garafola at last Thursday's Township Committee meeting.

Garafola said the fair, which had the support of Watchung Mayor Albert Ellis and volunteer Doyle Hunsinger among others from Watchung, was put together in five weeks time between the time the idea was hatched in response to word of more lay offs caused by the country's financial crisis, and the holding of the event on mid-April.

"In a single day conference," Garafola said, "We wanted to provide the citizens of Warren and Watchung who are seeking employment, the critical resources they need to support both a successful job search and the well-being of their families while the search goes on."

The conference included professionals who helped participants revise and strengthen their resume, provided strategies for scouting out where to look for job listings, and tips on honing better interviewing skills, developing better networking practices. There was also information on how to get more information about getting help with mortgages, credit, loans and other social services to successfully get to the other end of the recession, when a broader choice of prospects might be available.

The township Web site, www.warrennj.org has a link, "career counseling," which includes the overall agenda, the morning and afternoon break out session agendas, a link to job seekers Web sites, and a link to financial and social assistance sites.

Garafola said she was impressed by how Doug Reeder, who coordinated the event, picked up the challenging of staging a helpful job fair.

"He's a task master, very detailed oriented and organized," she said.

Reeder said he had never run a job fair before, but was pleased by its success.

"Since then, a number of people who attended have called or e-mailed saying that their revised resume or improved interviewing strategy had paid off with results," he said.

Garafola thanked Roberta Monahan, newly elected president of the Warren Board of Education, for her help in planning the event, greeting people at the sign-in table, and helping to smooth the way for the fair to use the Warren Middle School.

She also thanked Superintendent James Crisfield, school Business Administrator Peter Daquila, and Warren Middle School head custodian Martin Fonseca for all their help in making it possible to use the school.

"As soon as we all met with Martin Fonseca," Garafola said, "no matter what we needed, he was always thinking ahead."

Garadola also thanked Mary Ellen Roberts, the technology coordinator for the schools, for setting up the computers for use at the fair, as well as the students from the Nike Club at Watchung Hills Regional High School for volunteering at the fair.

Others receiving thanks included John Mangini, president of the Warren Business and professional association, Vincent Oliva, president of the Warren Lions Club, Martha Reeder, who manages the town's Web site, Adrienne Stewart of the recreation commission, and volunteers Paul Sedlak, Patricia Zohn, Jane Asch, Cathy Angelestro, and township committeemen Malcolm Plager and Gary DiNardo.



Longtime Warren Township volunteer Doug Reeder, right, holds a certificate of appreciation given him by Mayor Carolann Garafola, left, on behalf of the Township Committee in thanks for his giving leadership to a Counseling and Job Fair, Saturday, April 18, at Warren Middle School. Sponsored by Warren Township and Watchung, the fair was put together in six weeks in response to the spate of layoffs in the first three months of 2009. Links to helpful resources for job seekers can still be found on the Warren Township Web site, www.warrennj.org. (Photo by Denis J. Kelly)