

Rogers, A Community Asset

Learning to navigate a career and life does not end in high school.

A school does not stop supporting a community when the school bell rings.

Newport Public Schools and East Bay Community Action Program through the Newport Working Cities Collaborative has been working to leverage the rich resources of the Newport Area Career Technical Center (NACTC) for training and re-training for classes to benefit *all residents* when students are not in the building.

Learning from others:

Whether learning to be self-sufficient in how families use the computer, start a new career, upgrade mechanical or digital literacy, all adults need to invest in their education. Learning from the model of the Minuteman Career Technical School in Lexington, MA (minutemanti.org and ed2go.com/mm) with evening and Saturday classes for certifications and life skills offered to residents and neighbors to strengthen the economy and assist with skills and certifications for employment.

Today, through the Newport Public School system, NACTC offers student classes 7am to 2:30pm in Information Technology, Cyber Security, Construction Technology, (Carpentry, E.B. Pipefitting, E.B. Electrical), Culinary, Hospitality, Advertising/Media/Design (ADM), Automotive and Engines and Cosmetology. All programs support quality careers and businesses within our local economy.

Facilities will expand these opportunities as partners work from best practices. Newport Public Schools and East Bay Community Action Program are preparing to meet the needs of the future Blue Economy and a Post-COVID environment with smaller pilots of adult training programs and building their capacity to allow a 21st century school to work around the clock for families and taxpayers.

Building on past successes:

In 2017 and 2018, East Bay Community Action Programs (EBCAP), a Newport Working Cities partner, ran an afternoon/evening program for 24 residents ages 18-24 with workforce, culinary and hospitality skills training. EBCAP tracked each student to ensure they were hired and then 12 months later to see if they were still employed. All 24 were hired locally and a year later 23 were with the same employer, while the 24th had moved out of state but was employed in the same field. East Bay Community Action Programs and Newport Working Cities will submit a proposal for new training sessions for community members aligned with the needs of students, staff, residents, and safety due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Newport Working Cities Collaborative, an effort funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, assists unemployed and underemployed residents to decrease the barriers for them to achieve their career goals. Newport's Working Cities, Newport Public Schools, and East Bay Community Action Program have received accolades from the Boston Fed for its successes, collaborations, and ability to incorporate learning and data to bring forth sustainable change to Newport families living in poverty.