

The Suffolk County Department of Labor, Licensing & Consumer Affairs provides a variety of programs, activities and services for the residents and businesses of Suffolk County. Our aim is to keep Suffolk working. We operate the One-Stop Employment Center, and the Suffolk Works Employment Program, offering vocational opportunities, job search assistance, on the job training, and work experience. We are empowered to license businesses and seek resolution of consumer issues. Often, we get to share in the success of job seekers, and our business and consumer customers. This is one of those times.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ADA



The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a success story, recently celebrating twenty six years of service to the differently-abled. Here, we honor the 26th anniversary of the ADA and National Disability Awareness Month with a Success Story of our own.

Evelyn D. met with Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) **Jim Eddings** at the Suffolk County One-Stop Employment Center in Hauppauge. Jim works with customers with disabilities who are looking to return to the workforce. Evelyn wanted to go back to work but was concerned how doing so would affect her Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. She had not been employed full time for over ten years. As a DRC and a Certified Work Incentive Practitioner (CWIP), Jim is trained to aid individuals effectively navigate their return to work and advise them on how it will impact their disability benefits.

Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary Social Security Administration program available to individuals ages 18 through 64 who have a disability and who receive SSDI and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Evelyn decided to take advantage of Ticket to Work, assigning her ticket to Suffolk County. Together Evelyn and Jim were able to develop a strategy for her to successfully return to the workforce.

Under the direction of Suffolk County Executive **Steven Bellone**, the Employment Center administers the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Project that seeks to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Though Evelyn possessed marketable work skills, she accepted Jim's suggestion of vocational training. Through DEI, at no cost to herself, Evelyn enrolled in the Business Office Administration program at **Hunter Business School**.

With great determination, Evelyn completed her coursework, and with the help of Hunter's job placement services, secured a full-time job at a leading healthcare company.

Though excited about her new job, Evelyn did not have the professional attire that the position required, nor could she afford it. Clothing for Evelyn's new position was provided to her free of charge through the Employment Center's Career Couture boutique.

With proper planning and execution, Social Security Disability Beneficiaries can, if they so desire, successfully return to work. The ADA and Evelyn are proof of that.

Congratulations, ADA & Evelyn on your success!

Steven Bellone
Suffolk County Executive

James DiLiberto
Workforce Development Board Chair



Frank Nardelli
Commissioner



Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
An Equal Opportunity Employer Program

