

Success Story

LetsWorkTogetherToCreateYOURSuccessStory

sc.dol@suffolkcountyny.gov

www.suffolkcountyny.gov/labor

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.

Update

April 2017

If you were an employer, you would hire **Steven T.** in a heartbeat. Everything about Steven's resume shouts competent, reliable, experienced and well-qualified. But employers do not hire people like Steven in a heartbeat. It takes an employer with vision, who insists on hiring the right person for the job.

Steven T. is a parolee, one of several in attendance at a recent NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services New-Parolee Orientation held in Bohemia. The orientations feature Suffolk County Re-entry Task Force (SCRTF) service organizations including the Department of Labor, Licensing & Consumer Affairs' One-Stop Employment Center. SCRTF provides community-specific offender reentry strategies and coordinate services for released prior offenders.

Steven comes across as a man on a mission. He knows his shortcomings and his strengths and is honest about both. He came to the orientation prepared, carrying his resume, and peppering agency representatives with questions about potential employment opportunities which might make use of his skills.

His aim was to secure gainful employment as a supervisor in manufacturing, purchasing, or shipping where he previously had extensive experience. He also shared the fact that he served six years in prison and was now attempting to restart his life and resume an active role as a productive member of society.

With the support of his loving family and his can-do attitude, Steven tapped into a wealth of resources available to him in his job search. He obtained a New York State Federal Bonding eligibility letter with which to submit to potential employers along with his resume, identifying the benefits in hiring someone with a conviction in their background.

Employment Center representatives maintained contact with Steven and re-fashioned his resume to highlight his specific skill set. Steven then submitted that resume for numerous manufacturing positions and, after meeting an employer at a Center Onsite Recruitment event, secured an interview.

Steven was very qualified for the job and felt that his background conviction may have played a role in not being offered the position. He was disappointed but not deterred, brushed himself off and, with a positive attitude, continued to apply for jobs.

He did not have a long wait, as he was quickly hired by a manufacturing employer with vision, as a shipping manager earning \$57,000 a year to start.

Congratulations, Steven on your success!



Suffolk Executive **Steven Bellone** and Labor Commissioner **Frank Nardelli** meet w/employers seeking to hire at the Fifth Annual Fresh Start Career Expo, a specifically designed hiring event for individuals who face employment obstacles due to previous convictions.

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

