

NORTH SHORE YOUTH CAREER CENTER | WINTER 2021 UPDATES



North Shore Youth Career Center | 781-691-7430

Changes to the Massachusetts Minimum Wage

The minimum wage in the United States is set by U.S. labor law and a range of state and local laws. Employers generally have to pay workers the highest minimum wage prescribed by federal, state, and local law. Since July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage has been \$7.25 per hour and continues at that rate.

However, some believe the minimum wage should be higher to reflect inflation and an increased cost of living. Therefore, as of January 2020, 29 states and D.C., including Massachusetts, have a minimum wage higher than the federal minimum. The current minimum wage in Massachusetts has been increasing incrementally since 2014, and rose to \$13.50 per hour on January first of this year. Future increases are as follows: January 1, 2022 - \$14.25, January 1, 2023 - \$15.00

Massachusetts has a special minimum wage rate for agricultural workers (currently \$8 per hour) except if the worker is 17 years old or an employer's immediate family member. Minimum wage for service employees (tipped employees receiving more than \$20 per month in tips) is \$5.55 per hour

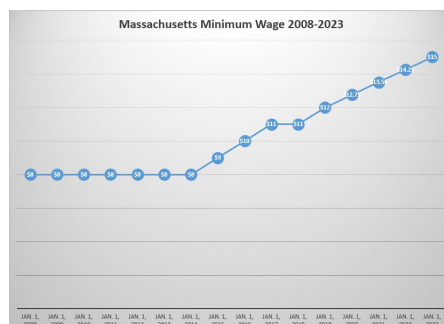
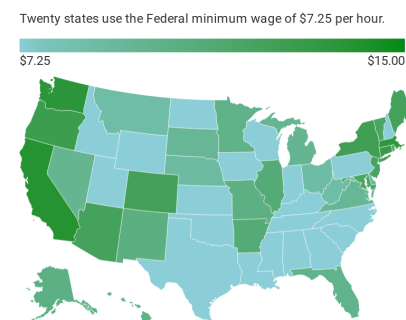
Sources: Massgov Dept of Labor

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JENNY ROSENFELD



Jenny Rosenfield joined the YCC team in July, 2020 as a Youth Career Coach Advisor. Before the career center, Jenny served as an Americorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow at both Girls Inc. in Lynn and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem, where she did college access and educational programming. Currently, she is working with students across the North Shore through the Early College and Connecting Activities programs.

2021 minimum wages by state



Source: Ballotpedia.org

BALLOT PEDIA

Reflections on Early College with Salem High School

At the Youth Career Center we take pride in the services we provide for our youth in the North Shore area. Amongst many of the different services that we provide there is one that we want to take a moment to highlight: our Early College Program.

During these unprecedented times we've all had to adapt to this new virtual way of interacting and it has been a challenge to say the least. However, the challenge has not dissuaded our efforts in helping youth by facilitating career readiness workshops. In October, in partnership with Salem State University and LEAP for Education, we began implementing curriculum to forty Salem High School juniors in the early college program. Over the course of the fall semester we covered topics such as soft skills, career paths, and writing a resume. During this semester, the students became explorers of themselves and their futures.

The possibilities for these youth are numerous, and they are fueled by the testimonies of those who participated as our guest career speakers. Professionals such as Mary Sarris, the Executive Director of the North Shore Workforce Board, President of Salem State University John Keenan, and Salem's very own Mayor Kim Driscoll. All speakers have had different paths, but echo similar sentiments to the youth: career paths are not always linear, but experiences and connections are always valuable.

A recurring theme that came across with each speaker was that with hard work and passion we can all have a fulfilling career. Reflecting on the program, one student remarked that the most helpful component was: "advice by professionals to show us different kinds of work and to motivate us to look for what we like." As we continue to move forward with this program our hope is to teach and to motivate the youth of the North Shore.

STEM @ Work Grant Connects High School Students with North Shore Businesses

MassHire-North Shore Workforce Board has been awarded a STEM@WORK opportunity (science, technology, engineering, and math) by the Executive Office of Education. The goal of the program is to increase STEM-focused Internships for High School Juniors and Seniors. The grant will focus its work with students and businesses along the North Shore. Students will be placed in paid internships during the remainder of this school year and summer. Nine students are already working remotely in STEM internships with Mass General Brigham - North Shore Medical Center.

While times are challenging amidst the Covid pandemic, there will be virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats to achieve the goals of the grant. MassHire is currently seeking businesses interested in hosting a high school student to provide a paid STEM opportunity. Students may work at any job within a STEM based company, or in a STEM role in any company. High school students greatly benefit from these work and learning opportunities as they create their career paths, and the goal is that this internship leads them to successful careers in STEM. Meanwhile, STEM companies benefit from the unique perspective and skill sets that young people bring to the job, and can assist with assignments to relieve the workload on current employees.



Please stay in touch! MassHire Youth Career Center is still working virtually due to the pandemic. If you need to reach any of us, please find our contact information below: <https://tinyurl.com/youthcareercenter>