



NEWS RELEASE

After 2016 Corporate to Nonprofit Employment Success Encore!Fairfield County Launches 2017 Program

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Stamford, Conn. – Encore!Fairfield County prepares former corporate professionals for management and professional positions in Connecticut nonprofits. The first class of Encore!Fairfield County graduated last December and are already working and impacting the Fairfield County nonprofit sector. Encore!Fairfield County 2017 is now accepting applications for its 2017 class which starts November 1st.

Former corporate human resource professional and Encore!Fairfield County 2016 graduate, Lisa Hinds-Simpson, is now fighting hunger as the Administrator of Stamford's New Covenant Center. States Hinds-Simpson, "Encore!Fairfield County is just a phenomenal program. The classes are held right onsite in Fairfield county nonprofits. That in itself is powerful, because you are having classes in the setting that you eventually would love to work, and you are able to interact with the staff and leadership and hear the positives and the challenges of working in a nonprofit. A second powerful piece is the actual class work and the information you gain."

Fellow 2016 Encore!Fairfield County graduate, **former global wealth advisor, and now social entrepreneur**, Evelyn Isaia attests " My experience with Encore!Fairfield County was

fantastic, I found it to be an excellent way to transition from the for-profit world to the nonprofit world. We had exposure to every aspect of nonprofit management.”

“Encore!Fairfield County addresses two critical needs: reducing professional sector unemployment in Fairfield County and increasing the capacity of local nonprofits,” states Dr. David Garvey, director of the Program. “Many seasoned corporate professionals are looking to transition their highly valued skills and experience to purposeful work in Fairfield County’s nonprofit sector. National studies demonstrate that these individuals desire educational support to make the transition. Encore!Fairfield County provides that training” adds Garvey.

Encore!Fairfield County is a four month program that provides **deep immersion** of the learner in the Fairfield County nonprofit sector. All sixty-plus hours of **transition education**—in the areas of nonprofit leadership, development, accounting, governance and strategic management—are held in area nonprofits. Topics are taught by seasoned Fairfield County nonprofit practitioners and University of Connecticut faculty. **The program is capped by a two-month Fellowship** within a Fairfield County nonprofit in which the Encore!Fairfield County Fellows are assigned a high-level project to assist in strengthening a Fairfield County nonprofit, while at the same time expanding their knowledge and networks in the Fairfield County nonprofit sector.

Encore!Fairfield County is co-led by Scott Wilderman, President and CEO of Fairfield County’s Career Resources, Inc., one of the nation’s leading workforce development organizations and Bob Francis, Executive Director of RYASAP, a nationally recognized youth and community leadership development coalition serving Greater Bridgeport.

“The Encore! Fairfield County Program is an exciting opportunity for both nonprofits and those seeking to transition into this rewarding field. It offers effective hands-on training in nonprofit management skills to seasoned corporate professionals who seek to enter the field, at the same time strengthens the nonprofits that open their doors to the program,” states Wilderman.

“I am often approached by corporate professionals seeking to impact our community by bringing their skills and passion full-time to the work of Fairfield County nonprofits. Properly preparing these individuals for the dynamics and realities of work and impact in the nonprofit sector work is needed. That is why we are pleased to be a partner in Encore!Fairfield County.” states Juanita James, President and CEO of Fairfield County’s Community Foundation.

“Encore careers—taking your decades of skills and experience to work in a new field—in a nonprofit that impacts and improves your community is a powerful job—is happening all over this county,” said Nora Duncan, State Director of AARP Connecticut. “Bringing this skilled, available, passionate and experienced workforce talent into our local nonprofits, is a powerful great way to strengthen and grow the services and impact of nonprofits across our State. “

Encore!Fairfield County is a program of the University of Connecticut Department of Public Policy’s Nonprofit Leadership Program and is designed and delivered in strong partnership with AARP Connecticut, Career Resources, Inc., Connecticut Department of Labor, Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, RYASAP, The WorkPlace, the United Ways of Greenwich, Western Connecticut and Coastal Fairfield County, and over 100 Fairfield County nonprofit partners; along with the newest partner Social Venture Partners—Connecticut.

“We are excited to support the Encore!Fairfield County Program because it aligns with our focus on strengthening the capacity of nonprofit organizations, said Mark Argosh, Executive Director of Social Venture Partners-Connecticut. “Encore!Fairfield County and Hartford graduates are playing an extremely important role in bringing new skill sets and experiences to nonprofit organizations in Connecticut. We are also working with corporations to obtain financial support for their transitioning employees to attend the Encore!Fairfield County Program, so that they can develop encore careers.”

Encore!Fairfield County begins November 1st with graduation at the UConn Stamford Campus on February 23. Applications for 25 seats are being accepted now. Acceptance will be awarded through a competitive selection process based on applicant’s skills and potential for success in the nonprofit sector. First round of selection occurs October 1.

The program fee is \$3,950. Scholarships to qualified applicants will be awarded by AARP Connecticut. For more information go to Encore!Fairfield County or contact Linda Friedman at linda.friedman@uconn.edu or call Linda at 1-959-200-3817. To apply go to www.dpp.uconn.edu/Encore-Fairfield-County

Partners



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