

Pittsfield: MassHire presents workforce awards

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The MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board celebrated its fiscal 2026 accomplishments, elected officers and presented its annual Workforce Impact Awards during its annual meeting June 4 at Hillcrest Educational Centers.

Onyx Specialty Papers Inc. was named Employer of the Year for its commitment to workforce development, career exploration, and community partnership.

Kristen Palatt, Erica Girgenti and Lindsay McGinnis of Hoosac Valley Middle & High School received Educator of the Year honors for expanding career readiness programs, internships and pathways for students.

Taconic High School sophomore Romelo Holley received the Outstanding Youth Award for his work through a MassHire marketing internship.

Sara Milano, a member of the MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board, was named Workforce Professional of the Year in recognition of her 12 years of dedication to strengthening the region's healthcare and manufacturing workforce.

Officers were re-elected to serve fiscal 2027 and fiscal 2028 include David Moresi of Moresi & Associates, president/chairperson; Michael Taylor of the city of Pittsfield and Christopher Smith of Hillcrest Educational Centers, vice chairs; James Brosnan of Northern Berkshire Vocational School District, treasurer; Beth Petropulos of MountainOne, assistant treasurer; Chelsea Robbins of Mativ, secretary; Albert Ingegneri of Salisbury

Estates, at-large member; and Doug McNally, FrostHollow Associates, Youth Council chair.

During fiscal 2026, the board provided career experiences for about 2,800 students, supported internships for 330 youth, assisted 950 businesses with workforce needs and expanded training programs in manufacturing, health care and early education.

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