

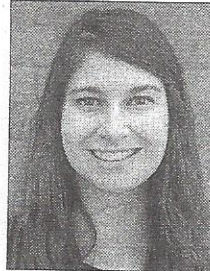


Zayac

The Berkshire Workforce Board has announced the hiring of two staff members to help move a number of initiatives forward. **Shannon Zayac** has joined as manager of industry relations, where she will be engaging employers throughout Berkshire County to define their

workforce needs and assist with recruitment and retention strategies. She will be coordinating relevant training grants to bring more skilled workers into the workforce and develop a pipeline of future workers, expanding the career ladders within the manufacturing, hospitality, and healthcare sectors. Zayac will be also be overseeing the Berkshire Skills Cabinet and Industry Advisory Committees to identify retention and recruitment strategies, funding strategies, and training opportunities. Zayac was previously the STEM program manager at MCLA, where she managed the Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network, which brings together higher education, K-12 education, industry, and community groups to advance STEM opportunities within Berkshire County.

Kathleen Toomey has joined as youth program specialist, where she will be responsible for enhancing the region's Career Readiness models serving Berkshire County youth ages 14-21. This work will be in partnership with the region's 11 public school districts, MassHire



Toomey

Berkshire Career Center, Berkshire business community, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations. Toomey will also work closely with Berkshire County employers and economic development entities to further align career readiness programming to meet the workforce needs of the region's industry sectors. Toomey comes to this position with a wealth of experience in evidence-based youth programming, having served as the coordinator of positive youth development at the Berkshire United Way. During her time with the United Way, she specialized in facilitating the regional capacity for all youth to be connected to enriching mentoring opportunities and structured college and career readiness exposure and development.

Registered Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist and Yoga Therapist **Annie Kay** has opened a private practice in Great Barrington at 168 Main St., Suite 2, offering in-person and telehealth (online) consultation. Kay has over 25 years of experience helping individuals create personal paths to health. Her area of specialty is the integrative treatment of nutrition-related conditions, disordered and emotional eating, healthy weight, and chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, digestive distress, inflammation and bone/joint issues. She also weaves transformative wisdom traditions such as yoga and Ayurveda into her licensed nutrition practice. Kay is the author of *Every Bite Is Divine* (Life Arts Press) and *Yoga and Meditation: Tools for Weight Management* (Wolf Rinke, 3rd Edition) and co-author of the American Diabetes Association's *Yoga and Diabetes: Your Guide to a Safe and Effective Practice*. She leads a growing online cohort at www.anniebkay.com, which offers a motivating free monthly newsletter, weekly blog, online groups and courses. ♦