



**Press Statement
September 9, 2021**

October 12th is a date for your calendar if you are a Lewiston employer who is short-staffed or if you are an individual of any age looking for a job at a Lewiston business.

The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) will be hosting an interactive job fair at the Lewiston Memorial Armory, 65 Central Avenue, from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. on that date. Jazz music will be the backdrop for “**Jazz Up Your Future**” with a special 4 p.m. performance by the Lewiston High School Jazz Band.

LYAC is seeking Lewiston employers who would like to participate. There is no charge for a business to participate, and a table and two chairs will be provided for each participant. Space is limited so LYAC encourages employers to come on board as soon as possible.

Lewiston employers who want to participate in the October 12th “**Jazz Up Your Future**” job fair may sign up at www.lewistonmaine.gov/jazzupyourfuture

LYAC member Kiera Potvin notes, “*The youth council has been concerned that some businesses are struggling due to the effects of COVID 19. We know that some businesses are very short staffed, and we also know many individuals are seeking employment. LYAC wants to help by providing an opportunity for businesses and local residents to connect.*”

Participant employers are asked to have applications on hand, and table stickers provided by LYAC will indicate if a business will be conducting on-the-spot interviews in a break-out room **OR** on-the-spot scheduling of future interviews. Participant employers are also asked to provide handouts sheet about their employment offers, as well provide an interactive element at their table, such as a video about their business, food samples if a restaurant, menus if a restaurant, product coupons, or giveaways such as pens/t-shirts, etc.

LYAC member Nafisa Tasnia adds, *“To mitigate the effects of COVID19, we want to help businesses get back to more normalcy. We hope the energy around this event will help.”*

LYAC member Ryleigh Emmert continues, *“An efficiently staffed workforce invigorates the economy and infrastructure of our community. We all want that to occur, and this job fair is a step in the right direction.”*

The job fair will also have an optional raffle, and to be entered, attendees will need to visit each table, ask a sample question (*will be provided a list to choose from upon entry to event*), and after interacting with a table representative, the person’s “passport” will be punched. Questions will focus on topics such as benefits, hours available, and pay range. A fully punched passport will be an attendee’s raffle entry.

LYAC member Cadence Nadeau notes, *“The raffle passport questions surround important topics. We hope attendees won’t just walk by a table but seek to learn more about Lewiston businesses and what they offer. We want them to know about work that’s available to provide for families, some with many children.”*

Youth are also a focus of the job fair, and LYAC wants to be sure that there will be multiple employers on site who embrace hiring young people.

LYAC member Elissa Nadeau stressed the importance of having a job as a teen, stating, *“It has helped me build my self-esteem and has given me experience in being more vocal.”*

LYAC member Emily Fournier agreed, *“Having a job when a teen gives you real-life experience and helps you develop people skills.”*

As LYAC plans for the event, they will also be pursuing employment supports for attendees, such as resources for business attire and haircuts.

LYAC member Brea Mathieu added, *“Basically, we want everyone to feel welcome and supported at the job fair, to include families, those who are homeless, and teens.”*

FYI: (207) 513-3018

###