

POPULAR ADULT CONTINUING ED. PROGRAM, NIGHT LIFE, RETURNS TO WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS CURRICULUM, WITH WAIT LIST

By Liz Tiley, *Night Life Manager*

Back by popular demand, the Night Life program re-launched this spring with 80 participants taking advantage of the skills- and career-based education opportunity.

Housed at Worcester Technical High School, Night Life is a vocational, technical workforce development program designed as an outlet for Worcester residents to learn everything from beginners' Spanish to budgeting basics, computer programming to yoga, financial planning for retirement to the fundamentals of automobile care and maintenance.

"There's something for everyone," said Liz Tiley who has managed the program since its resurrection in November 2018.

"It's clear Night Life is a beloved program that has been sorely missed – and an important asset to the Worcester community," said Ms. Tiley. "Every day, I receive phone calls from people telling me how happy they are that Night Life is running again and asking for [more information]."

Not only does the after-work-hours programming afford the owners of local companies an opportunity to connect with their customer base outside of their shops, it also helps local residents advance their skills.

"When it comes to advancing your career," said Ms. Tiley, "adult continuing education sets you apart from your peers. It provides a credential that lets employers know you possess the skills they need."

Ms. Tiley explained that each of the Night Life classes culminates with a certificate of completion noting the participants' achievement and dedication to career advancement.

Night Life, she said, "reduces the skills gap by providing employers with more-qualified employees [who] are able to earn a higher income" – a win-win.

While 80 participants were enrolled in the spring cohort, another 50 were placed on a waiting list.

Prior to the next cohort's start, in September, what Ms. Tiley needs most is feedback. She is asking local businesses to identify what skills they would most like to see in their workforce and connect with herself and other Night Life administrators to design corresponding courses.

Ms. Tiley welcomes those with life skills knowledge – everything from carpentry to sign language, Adobe Photoshop to EKG technicians, and commercial drivers to drone pilots – to sign up as Night Life instructors. Course proposals and inquiries can be submitted to her at tiley1@worcesterschools.net.



Precision measurement instructors and students take advantage of the Night Life program offered at Worcester Technical High School. The second cohort of 2019 is expected to begin in September. Photos courtesy Liz Tiley.

