



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

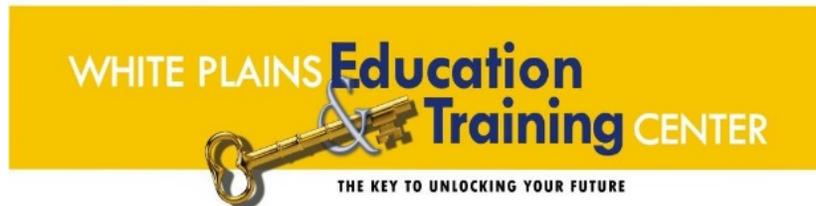
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For Immediate Release:

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White Plains Education & Training Center Opens for Business
The Prelude - First Phase of Winbrook Redevelopment – Now Complete

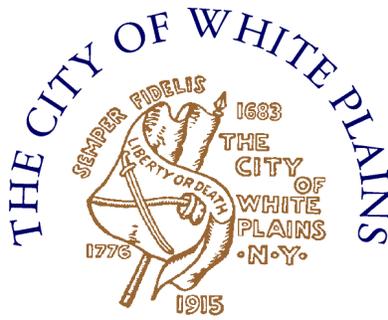


White Plains, NY – March 10, 2016. White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, White Plains Housing Authority Director Mack Carter, and developer Jonathan Rose were joined today by local, state and federal officials as they cut the ribbon and officially opened the Prelude and the White Plains Education & Training Center (WPETC).

Located in downtown White Plains, the Prelude is the first phase of a long-term transformation and comprehensive revitalization of the White Plains Housing Authority’s 450-unit public housing campus. The recently completed Phase One project includes 103 affordable housing units and the White Plains Education and Training Center, which provides comprehensive education and training to promote economic empowerment, self-sufficiency and financial independence for residents and the greater White Plains community. It is a model project for the redevelopment of a housing authority campus and represents an opportunity to realize a true mixed-use and mixed-income community, while at the same time building on White Plains’ commitment to affordable housing.

“I am excited to unveil this important project to the public,” said *Mayor Tom Roach*. “It is a unique project in Westchester County and the region for several reasons. First, in re-envisioning our largest public housing site, we are challenging preconceived notions about public housing and throwing out old prejudices in favor of a new, progressive view which recognizes that our community succeeds when everyone in it – not just some – have a chance to succeed.

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Second, we have taken the need for real-time job training and skills development and brought it directly to residents in an easily accessible manner and location. And third, we strengthen the City’s economic position and attractiveness by being able to say to employers and potential employers -*We can provide you with the skilled workforce that you need.*”

Mack Carter, Executive Director of the White Plains Housing Authority said, "The dream of Winbrook residents to finally move into new, high quality homes is now a reality. The Winbrook community can now say with pride, “We are not being left behind; we are moving forward.” The Board of Commissioners, Management and Staff are proud to have delivered on our promise to begin the transformation of our Public Housing while at the same time ensuring that no resident was displaced in the process. The Education and Training Center is another key aspect to the redevelopment and I predict it will become a jewel in our community -- a place where anyone in our City can apply for vocational training and be given the opportunity to succeed. Thank you Mr. Mayor, the members of the Common Council and City contributing departments for your leadership and support. The complexity of this project required that we access multiple sources of funding. In addition to the City of White Plains contribution, two of the largest sources were Bank of America and Westchester County. Their financial support ensured that the project would be a success from beginning to end."

Jonathan Rose, of Jonathan Rose Companies said, “We are thrilled to partner with the White Plains Housing Authority, pairing our design, construction, and asset management expertise with the Housing Authority’s leadership as a housing provider,” said Jonathan F.P. Rose, founder of the Jonathan Rose Companies. “The Prelude and the White Plains Education & Training Center will not only provide quality affordable housing for working people in White Plains, but access to critical education and training programs that are essential to building a successful community.”

“The Prelude at Brookfield Commons is a great example of the tremendous impact public and private collaboration can have on communities,” said *Todd Gomez, Northeast Market Executive for Community Development Banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch*. “The project represents the first step in bringing a vibrant new look to the White Plains Housing Authority’s campus. We are very excited to work with Mayor Roach, Jonathan Rose Companies, the White Plains Housing Authority and all of our other partners to make The Prelude and the White Plains Education and Training Center a reality.”

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U.S. Representative Nita Lowey said, “The White Plains Education and Training Center is an excellent example of public, private, and nonprofit sector collaboration to give hardworking residents the means to build their own path toward financial independence. I commend Mayor Roach, Housing Authority Director Mack Carter, and all the dedicated individuals who made this vision a reality. As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I'm proud that federal investments totaling more than \$3.6 million helped make this project possible. I will continue working with local officials and representatives from our community to protect federal funding that helps improve quality of life for Lower Hudson Valley families.”

About the WPETC

The WPETC has been made possible by federal, city and private funding and is an integral part of the redevelopment of the White Plains Housing Authority’s 450-unit public housing campus.

The White Plains Education and Training Center has been created to support career success of its participants, whether they are seeking a new job, a better job, or an entirely new career. It does this by working with leading industry employers in the area to determine the greatest workforce needs and then partners with expert training providers to develop a trained, effective and prepared workforce. WPETC offers real-time job opportunities in today’s market while at the same time supporting the employment needs of regional, high growth industries including: culinary and hospitality, medical and health care, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The WPETC then goes the extra step to insure success by also providing education and training in budgeting, home buying, English language skills specifically for success in the workplace, resume and interviewing skills, and more.

To find out more about the types of training courses and workshops available, visit the WPETC online at: www.whiteplainsny.gov/wpetc.

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“Mack Carter and the White Plains Housing Authority are creating the template for preserving our nation’s public housing in the 21st century,” said *Holly Leicht, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey*. “In today’s fiscal reality, it takes a combination of bold financing strategies, public-private partnerships, and cooperation among all levels of government to reposition existing housing and create new affordable homes for future generations. We at HUD are proud to support such innovative efforts, including committing funds to this project through our Community Facilities Capital Fund Program and Community Development Block Grants to pay for staffing and programming at the Education and Training Center.”

“At JPMorgan Chase, we understand how important sustainable jobs are for any community to thrive,” said *David Walsh, head of Community Development Banking for the Northeast Region at JPMorgan Chase*. “We believe deeply in the White Plains Education and Training Center, and we’re proud to be supporting the great work being done here.”

Laura Rossi, Executive Director of Westchester Community Foundation said, “The Westchester Community Foundation believes that investing in job creation is the right way to build a better future for families, and that’s why we are proud to be a supporter of this important project.”

Sonja Brown, Regional Director for the Lower Hudson Valley/Bronx Workforce Development Institute said, “Growing and keeping good jobs in New York State is a big part of the mission of The Workforce Development Institute (WDI). Our work is often accomplished through partnerships and collaborations with businesses, unions, other non-profits, educational institutions, and government. We are proud to have joined in the collaboration of the White Plains Education & Training Center (WPETC) project where together, we work towards Job Development, Job Training and Job Retention. This collaborative effort will ultimately result in helping individuals find and keep employment, assist with promotion and career growth, help Businesses thrive, and contribute to New York’s Economy. This project is a win-win for all.”

“Westchester Community College is proud to be a partner of the White Plains Education and Training Center”, said *Belinda S. Miles, President of Westchester Community College*. “We are committed to providing access to career pathways and training that prepares individuals to enter directly into the workforce or continue their college education. As we work together we will assist all county residents to advance their skill development, career opportunities, and economic capacity.”



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Paul Anderson-Winchell, Executive Director of Lifting Up Westchester (LUW) said, “We are thrilled to be collaborating with the City of White Plains and the many training partners participating in the WPETC. The breadth and strength of the organizations that will be sharing their training expertise with the residents of White Plains and the region is truly impressive. LUW’s free Home Health Aide Training Program will train and certify over 75 individuals annually. These aides will help fill the need faced by the 70 home care agencies in Westchester who currently can’t find enough certified aides to keep up with the escalating need for home care being fueled by an aging population.”

Joe Monaco, Vice President of the Culinary Tech Center said, “The Culinary Tech Center is a New York State licensed and nationally accredited post-secondary vocational training school specializing in Culinary Arts and Hospitality programs. The Culinary Tech Center is delighted with the opportunity to be a part of the WPETC, to deliver occupational training for individuals to achieve personal and professional growth, while serving the community’s employment needs within White Plains and the surrounding area. The Culinary Tech Center is confident in achieving the mission of the WPETC, to provide quality career education that can lead to a rewarding future in the growing local markets.”

Rob Kissner, owner of the Digital Arts Experience said, “The DAE is thrilled to be a part of the WPETC. The computer lab is absolutely stunning and cutting edge - it is the perfect environment in which to update one's 21st century digital literacy skills. We feel this lab will become a staple to the White Plains community.”

Anne Janiak, Executive Director of the Women’s Enterprise Development Center said, "The Women's Enterprise Development Center (WEDC) is pleased to partner with the White Plains Education and Training Center on this innovative project and to provide a variety of our entrepreneurial training programs and services to help participants achieve economic self-sufficiency through business ownership."

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