

# NEWS



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For Immediate Release

April 20, 2011

## 04-20-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

You've heard me say it before, and you'll hear me say it again, when it comes to helping Orange County residents one of the most important things for us to focus on is jobs, jobs, jobs. When a person is gainfully employed, it has a ripple effect of positive impact on the individual, his or her family, the economy, and our community. That's why I've made economic development and job creation a critical component of my administration. In fact, the Office of Business Assistance is located in my office and I've tasked the Deputy County Executive, Mr. James O'Donnell, with heading up their efforts – because it's that important.

Last year, we launched the Orange County Business Accelerator with offices at Stewart Airport. A business incubator, the Accelerator helps entrepreneurial start-ups hit the ground running with affordable rent, mentoring, office assistance, and more, in order to help those companies establish themselves and grow so that they can create new jobs in Orange County. In a little more than a year, the Accelerator has nearly reached its capacity, hosting 15 clients that employ more than 60 people. Better than that, those companies have the potential to create as many as 500 jobs in the next five years. Last week, I participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Accelerator's newest tenant, 4eProductions. I know you'll soon be hearing more about this innovative company that balances education and entertainment.

If you, or someone you know, are looking for a job, be sure to mark Wednesday, May 18, on your calendar for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Orange County job fair. The job fair will be held at the Galleria at Crystal Run in Middletown from 10 am to 4 pm. Put on your interview suit, bring a handful of resumes, and have the chance to speak directly to employers who are looking to hire. For a list of participating companies, visit [www.orangeworks.biz](http://www.orangeworks.biz).

The Orange County Youth Bureau is looking to help junior and senior high school students gain real world work experience through their summer internship program. New, this year, the Youth Bureau will help students gain part-time summer positions in a variety of County Government departments. While the internships are unpaid, the experience students gain will be invaluable. To learn more and get an application, visit the Youth Bureau's page on the County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com).

If you are a small business owner looking for advice, guidance, a mentor, counseling, and more, I encourage you to check out SCORE. Counselors to America's Small Businesses, SCORE is sponsored by the Small Business Administration and offers free, confidential counseling to those in business or looking to start a business. SCORE meets every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the offices of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery. They also offer business workshops in partnership with the BOCES Entrepreneur Assistance Program. To learn more, visit SCORE online at [www.orangeNYSCORE.com](http://www.orangeNYSCORE.com).

To see what job openings are available in Orange County Government, be sure to look at the Human Resources page on the County website; you'll also find a listing of upcoming Civil Service Exams.

Remember, it's jobs that will make a difference, and we're committed to doing what we can to create opportunities wherever possible for Orange County residents.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana  
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