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Our Piece of the Pie Earns Accreditation From National Youth Employment Coalition

Hartford, CT—Our Piece of the Pie®, Inc.(OPP), a leading youth development organization in Hartford, has won accreditation from the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) for its continued work in helping Hartford youth overcome barriers and achieve economic independence.

OPP officially received the honor during a ceremony in Washington DC on Tuesday, September 15.

NYEC's Promising and Effective Practices (PEPNet) Accreditation Pilot sought to identify successful practices, foster a culture of continuous improvement, and continue to implement a national system of quality standard for youth organizations. NYEC PEPNet accredited organizations demonstrate a high level of quality in the areas of: organizational management; program design and delivery; youth development; workforce development; and a focus on youth outcomes.

OPP is one of four organizations nationwide to receive full accreditation. Four other organizations received provisional accreditation.

“This accreditation is a reflection of our dedicated and talented staff,” said Bob Rath, OPP President/CEO. “They have worked to develop and implement a youth development

strategy that is helping to turn so many of Hartford's young people into successful adults."

This pilot, conducted over a 16-week period, includes a site visit by a quality review team of experts from the youth development field.

"Now more than ever, with a slowing economy, a lack of well-trained, qualified workers, and an alarmingly low high school completion rate, youth programs and youth-serving systems need to ensure that our nation's young people are adequately prepared to meet ever-changing labor market demands and successfully transition into adulthood," said NYEC Executive Director Mala B. Thakur.

NYEC PEPNet Accreditation is valid for three years.

Since 1995, NYEC's PEPNet has been one of the premier resources for enhancing the quality of programs that link young people (ages 12 to 25) to work and education to promote a successful transition to adulthood.

Our Piece of the Pie helps Hartford youth, ages 14-24, become successful adults. OPP programs and services allow young people to rise above economic and social barriers to reach the goals of a degree from a 2 or 4-year college or vocational certification and/or meaningful employment in their chosen field.



(L to R) OPP President/CEO Bob Rath, former OPP Member April Jefferson and OPP Director of Quality Assurance Kimberly Williams-Rivera after Washington DC ceremony.