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MaturityWorks Open House **Brings CTWorks Career Center Resources to Middletown**

Workers 55 and beyond participated in the *MaturityWorks* Open House on Friday, at The CTWorks Career Center at 645 South Main Street Middletown, CT. Dozens of workers, many recently dislocated from jobs at Mortgage Lenders Network and other down-sizing companies, learned about job hunting and training services, and toured the CTWorks Career Coach and its mobile computer training lab.

The number of Americans age 65 or older still working or looking for work has grown by 50 percent since 1980. In addition, 60% of Americans age 55 to 64 are still working. MaturityWorks (A Senior Community Service Employment Program) delivers training and job searches for people age 55 and older. Participants receive paid training, assistance finding employment, and a customized Individual Employment Plan (IEP)

Several participants noted the difficulty of finding a job, especially a comparable job, when you are in your late 50's and beyond. "People don't actually say that you're too old. They just don't respond to your application." said one attendee of a certain age. Another said it was frustrating because she had worked in an amicable office with people of all ages. "It was great," she said, "The young employees never treated me like their mother."

Nearly all of the participants had basic or advanced computer skills, which belies the image of older workers being non-technology-oriented Luddites. Joyce Barclay, who ran the Career Coach, said a number of the attendees could have taught the course.

In addition, the open house offered tours of the CTWorks Career Center and two career workshops. Employment specialists were on hand to explain all of the CTWorks' services to job-seekers.

For more information, call 860-754-4030 or visit [www. workforcealliance.biz](http://www.workforcealliance.biz)

CTWorks is a partnership of Workforce Alliance & CT Department of Labor



Left to right: Jennifer Seamon, Jane Kinsley, and Karen Keathley board the CTWorks Career Coach mobile computer lab.



Left-to-right: MaturityWorks Program Coordinator Lenore Page explains job training resources to Sandra and Phillip Goodsell