Hillside
WORK-SCHOLARSHIP CONNECTION

HWSC Syracuse and Binghamton Newsletter

Twentieth Edition
Fall 2026



Staff Anniversaries

November

Autumn Gilbert – 7 years

December

Tynisha Walker – 2 years

From the Desk of Regional Director, Karinda Shanes

Embracing Change, Moving Forward Together

Every school year brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and find creative ways to support our students and school communities. As needs continue to evolve, HWSC remains committed to keeping students at the heart of all we do.

We are grateful for our partnerships with Binghamton Central and Syracuse City school districts and for the collaboration, communication, and shared commitment that allow us to continue making a difference together.

I am especially proud of our HWSC staff. Their flexibility, creativity, and dedication continue to make a meaningful impact on students every day. Their commitment is what makes our work possible.

As we look ahead, I'm excited about the possibilities before us and what we can accomplish together.

Thank you to our staff, school partners, families, and community for believing in our students and supporting the work we do.

Here's to a great year ahead!



What's in this Edition

Binghamton & Syracuse YETA 2
Bridge to Manufacturing 3
Binghamton & Syracuse Summer Enrichments..... 4
2026 Senior Updates 5
Back to School! 6

Binghamton & Syracuse YETA



Syracuse and Binghamton both had summer Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA) sessions. For three days, our students learned skills to help them in the workforce, including communication, professionalism, time management, interview skills, and more. Our Rochester teammates ran the two sessions and were able to get 18 students certified this past August.



Bridge 2 Manufacturing



Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC), in partnership with Onondaga Community College (OCC) and CenterState CEO, had nine 2026 graduates participate in our first-ever Bridge to Manufacturing (B2M) program. These students completed a six-week pilot designed to introduce Syracuse high school students to STEM, advanced manufacturing, college pathways, financial literacy, durable power skills, and workforce readiness. As part of the hands-on learning experience, students also visited KJ Electric to explore careers in the electrical and manufacturing industries and gain firsthand insight into the skills and opportunities available in the field. Students received a certificate, stipend, and a laptop upon successful completion.

Binghamton & Syracuse Summer Enrichments



This summer was filled with fun and engaging activities for our students and their youth advocates! From beach days and visits to The Wild and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to craft days at our Student Phoenix Center, trips to Sky Zone, and activities like cooking, hiking, and bowling, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Our summer activities were a huge hit with the students!

2026 Senior Updates









Wegmans Annual Graduation Celebration was held at the Fairmount store this year. Congratulations to our 2026 Hillside Wegmans graduates!!! They enjoyed attending their special recognition graduate activity of cookie decorating with their Wegmans team. Congrats graduates, the future is yours!!!







Wegmans









Congratulations to A. Reyes-Soto and E. Harrison on graduating from ITC in August 2026. You did it!!! We are so proud of all your hard work this summer!



Back to School!

Ms. Noelle and Ms. O'Sheonia welcoming our Corcoran Hillside families at the Welcome Back BBQ event.





Ms. Wright greeting STEAM families for Open House.









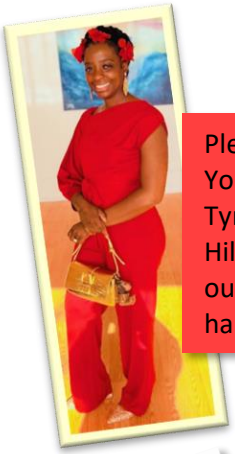






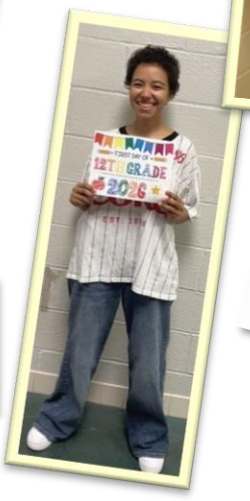


Please help me welcome our newest Youth Advocate II teammate to HW-SC, Tynisha Walker! Tynisha has been with Hillside for almost two years and joined our team this summer. We are so happy to have her join the PSLA team!











Ms. Walker greeted students and their families at PSLA's Curriculum Night.



We're grateful to receive a donation from the Willow Street Foundation again this year. We truly appreciate their continued support of our organization and the work we do in our community. Thank you, Willow Street Foundation, for your ongoing partnership!



Pictured at the New York Community College Trustees awards are (left to right) OCC Board Chair Jaime Alicea, honoree Melanie Littlejohn, honoree Karinda Shanes '98, honoree Sam Rowser '86, and OCC President Dr. Warren Hilton.

Newsletter Created by Susanne Bequer, Administrative Assistant II