



# Telamon Corporation

Virginia



West Virginia



Quarterly  
Newsletter  
August 2017

## Message from State Director Tom Grecco

With the close of the NFJP program year, we are actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at improving our services. Throughout our next program year, Virginia and West Virginia Telamon staff are contributing to the following projects in order to enhance services to our customers and meet our program goals:

### **Danville NFJP office:**

Effective 9/1/17, Telamon's Danville NFJP office located at 1332D Piney Forest Road Danville, Virginia 24540 will be moving to 2943 Riverside Drive Suite D Danville, Virginia 24541 Phone: (434) 421-6491, Fax: (434) 835-4940. It is anticipated that this new location will consolidate the services offered through our National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) with our Housing and Fi-

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## Tytiana Dennis Represents

As Housing Program Coordinator in Danville, Virginia, Tytiana Dennis represents Telamon Corporation every time she picks up the phone, meets with a client, or attends a public function.

In the past quarter, Tytiana has represented Telamon with vivid charm and bold flair.



In April, Tytiana was featured on an episode of Living in the Heart of Virginia. She represented multiple Telamon programs in Virginia, discussing Housing, NFJP, and Weatherization. The interview was broadcast on WSET 13 and posted on their webpage.

Tytiana was invited to speak at Brookville High School. She ad-



ressed the Class of 2017 and presented rental workshops to 98 stu-



dents. Telamon partnered with Campbell County School system to teach students about money management, credit, rental rights and obligations.

In May, the Virginia Association of Housing Counselors recognized Tytiana by awarding her the honor of Housing Specialist of the Year.



In June, Tytiana was invited to speak to the Dan River Realtors Association at the Danville Golf Club. She represented Telamon Housing programs and created opportunities for partnership with realtors, lenders and brokers.

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## State Director's Message

(Continued from page 1)

financial Empowerment program. We are in the process of exploring other areas in Virginia where farmworkers may benefit from NFJP services.

### Grant Funding:

We are considering applying for the Refugee Career Pathways grant in Virginia. We have prepared the background information and are evaluating the feasibility of this initiative. Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge our West Virginia NFJP staff, Jane Bacilio and Heather Hernandez for identifying two potential funding sources, The Benedum and McDonough foundations. We are in the process of developing a proposal that will improve the outcomes for our customers.

### Marketing:

Our Corporate Marketing team continues to develop the Telamon Branding Standards Guide (BSG). We have collaborated with the Telamon Marketing Committee to develop an Employer's Brochure that will be distributed to local businesses informing them of our NFJP services.

### Video resumes:

In an effort to improve the chances of job placements, we have begun to pilot video resumes. It is anticipated that this would allow us to coach our customers prior to their interviews. We are in the process of uploading these resumes to Telamon's YouTube channel.

## Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS):

A total of 937 farmworkers were trained through July 2017. We anticipate that we will exceed our program goals of educating growers, and improving the awareness and work conditions of many Virginia farmworkers.

### AgHelp:

AgHelp is an application which has recently been developed that will assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers connect with jobs and services. The app facilitates communication with: farmers seeking workers, local clinics, legal aid, and more. We will collaborate with our Corporate Development team to market this app as it will be a useful tool for NFJP and VDACS clients.

## Tytiana Dennis Represents

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As Tytiana worked toward the completion of a highly successful grant program year - meeting all her goals and receiving funding for another year - she was asked to join a workshop hosted by a Danville non-profit social organization called *The Sista's Circle*.

The workshop is called "I am the Prize" and includes girls aged 9-18. The goals include building self-esteem through practical money management. The young women develop real-world skills blended with an approach that fosters confidence, self worth and Loving self.

Tytiana was invited to help inspire the girls - Tytiana received a new sense of inspiration as well. The workshop fostered the understanding that **Giving** and **Receiving** are melded together when you start from a place of enlightened **self** investment.

**I AM**  
the **Prize**



# An Example of Perseverance and Excellence

By Magaly Quinones Guzman

On 5/12/2017 I had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Nursing Class of BRCC Pinning Ceremony. There were 72 graduates and one of them was Wilma Cambata. Wilma is 52 years old and more than 20 years had passed since she graduated from high school in her native country of India. It was a journey of challenges, long days and sacrifice. Wilma always stayed focused and studied hard. I witnessed her joy and the feeling of accomplishment she felt. Wilma graduated with honors. By: Magaly Quinones Guzman

By Isa Martell Bonet

Wilma is a woman from India who came to the United States

with her family for a better life. Wilma is a single mom who used to work for Shenandoah Growers, packing fresh herbs to support her two children. She stated she had worked doing farm work most of her life and that she wanted a change. During Wilma's beginnings in the program, Telamon assisted Wilma in paying for Computer Classes and provided supportive services throughout her participation. In 2014, Wilma decided that she wanted to become a Registered Nurse and she entered the Nursing Program at Blue Ridge Community College. Wilma's journey wasn't easy during her first year. She was working full time, studying full time and being a single mom with two adolescents. Despite Wilma's challenging life, Wilma has been one of



the best participants in Telamon; excelling in her Academic Achievements. Wilma is a true example of perseverance and excellence.

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## Healthy, Happy Farmworkers

By Heather Hernandez

WV07 was fortunate enough to receive a large donation of health kits to distribute to migrant and seasonal farmworkers from Sabra United Methodist Church, in Morgantown, WV. Darlina Wise and her husband, John, have collected towel kits for farmworkers from various churches in the area for over a decade now! Each kit has a towel, a washrag, a toothbrush, tube of toothpaste, comb and a bar of soap!

Because migrant workers move from place to place so often,

they are often without basic hygiene essentials. These kits eliminate some of the stress of not having needed items after relocating, while providing the workers with some of the items we all need to live healthy and feel our best! Receiving a health kit also makes them feel like they're not forgotten; it's a small way to spread around happiness! Thanks, John & Darlina Wise for your efforts in helping farmworkers!!



Pictured from left to right are John & Darlina Wise for your efforts in helping farmworkers!!

# Opening Doors to West Virginia's Future!

By Jane Bacilio

On Wednesday, June 28, 2017, West Virginia NFJP staff attended the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of the new Workforce West Virginia One-Stop Career Center located at 202 Viking Way in Martinsburg, WV. The day's events included tours of the new facility; as well as, the opportunity to network with valuable partners, such as, Adult Basic Education, Job

Corps, and the West Virginia Job Service and Workforce West Virginia staff. Additionally, local city officials and legislative representatives were in attendance. Workforce West Virginia is a state government agency funded through the U.S. Department of Labor that oversees the state unemployment insurance program as well as a network of workforce development services designed to provide West Virginia's



residents and employers the opportunity to compete in today's competitive global economy. Congratulations, Workforce West Virginia, on your new facility.

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## Spring Valley Farm & Orchard

By Heather Hernandez

After receiving a donation of health kits for local migrant and seasonal farmworkers, our first stop to distribute them was at a farm in Hampshire County, West Virginia. Eli & Misty Cook granted the WV NFJP staff permission to visit Spring Valley Farm and Orchard. Eli bought his first 52 acres when he was just 22 years old. Today, Eli and Misty own 355 acres. Eli has eleven high-tunnel greenhouses that allow him to grow

many different varieties of fruits and vegetables year around.

Spring Valley Farm and Orchard employs a great mix of migrant and seasonal farmworkers; including year-round workers, long time seasonal returnees from Florida, and many H-2A visa holders from Southern Mexico; as well as, many local high school and college age workers. Telamon staff were ecstatic to meet them and let them know of the services we have available while dropping off a health kit to each farmworker.



Eli sells at 7 different markets, including one near the White House, and he just recently opened up a new market in Winchester, VA. It is located two miles west on Route 50, just past Walmart. Thanks, Eli & Misty for allowing us to come visit and many-big-Thanks to all the farmworkers who toil away in the fields for us. We appreciate and commend you!



# Partnering to Build a Better Future



By Jane Bacilio

Pilgrim's is one of the largest employers in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia. As an organization they are the second-largest chicken producer in the world working with approximately 4,000 family farms in the U.S. and Mexico. Their vision is "To become the Best and Most Respected Company in our industry, creating opportunities for a better future for our team members," and one of the prescribed methods to accomplish this vision is to create growth and development opportunities that help their team members succeed. In line with this

proclaimed method, the Moorefield, WV, poultry processing facility's Human Resource office partnered with WV NFJP staff to provide opportunities for their eligible employees to gain a better education which in turn leads to better jobs, better lives, and better communities. NFJP staff members were recently granted the ability to set up a display table and engage with employees during their breaks and lunch periods. The staff spoke with many potential new customers; and thus far, have enrolled one new customer. Pilgrim's has extended their invitation

to speak with their 3rd shift workers; as well as, another date for each shift later in the program year. Thank you, Pilgrim's, for the opportunity to partner with you!



## Telamon Joins the Olympic Struggle

Telamon Corporation Weatherization Crew in South Hill, VA placed in the Wx Olympics at the Virginia Community Action Partnership/Weatherization Conference 2017.

The Crew competed in seven events and received the second place trophy overall in the Wx Olympic competition.



The crews received ribbons in the following Events:

- First place – Drywall patching
- First place – 6 mi plastic
- First place – Stacking insulation
- Third place – Bag (Cellulose) Toss



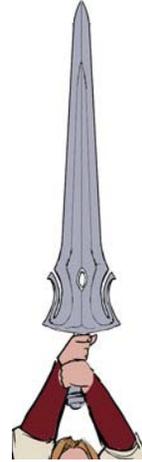
# Graduating with Style, Honor and Grace

By Sara Lopez

We would like to take a moment to congratulate Maria Murillo on her graduation from Longwood University. Maria was in the Regis-

tered Nursing program and worked very hard to reach her goals. Maria was awarded the following 6 awards: Outstanding Senior Award, Student Employee of the Year Award, Certificate of Appreciation for EMS, The Robert C.

Macauley Caring Award, The Zelda Award and the F. Edward Williams, Jr. '73 '86 MED Peace and Social Justice award! We are very proud of her and know she will continue to be successful in the future!



## Javier Alcazar

By Sara Lopez

When Javier Alcazar stepped into our Montross, VA Telamon office, he had only done farmwork with no other work experience. He was born deaf but worked hard in school and learned how to read and write the English language. He uses both that and sign language to communicate effectively.

Javier had a desire to continue his education beyond high school. He needed help figuring out which career pathway to choose. He stated that he would like to work in something that is hands-on and that mechanical work had always interested him. Staff administered a career assessment to Javier and he scored very high in the mechanical

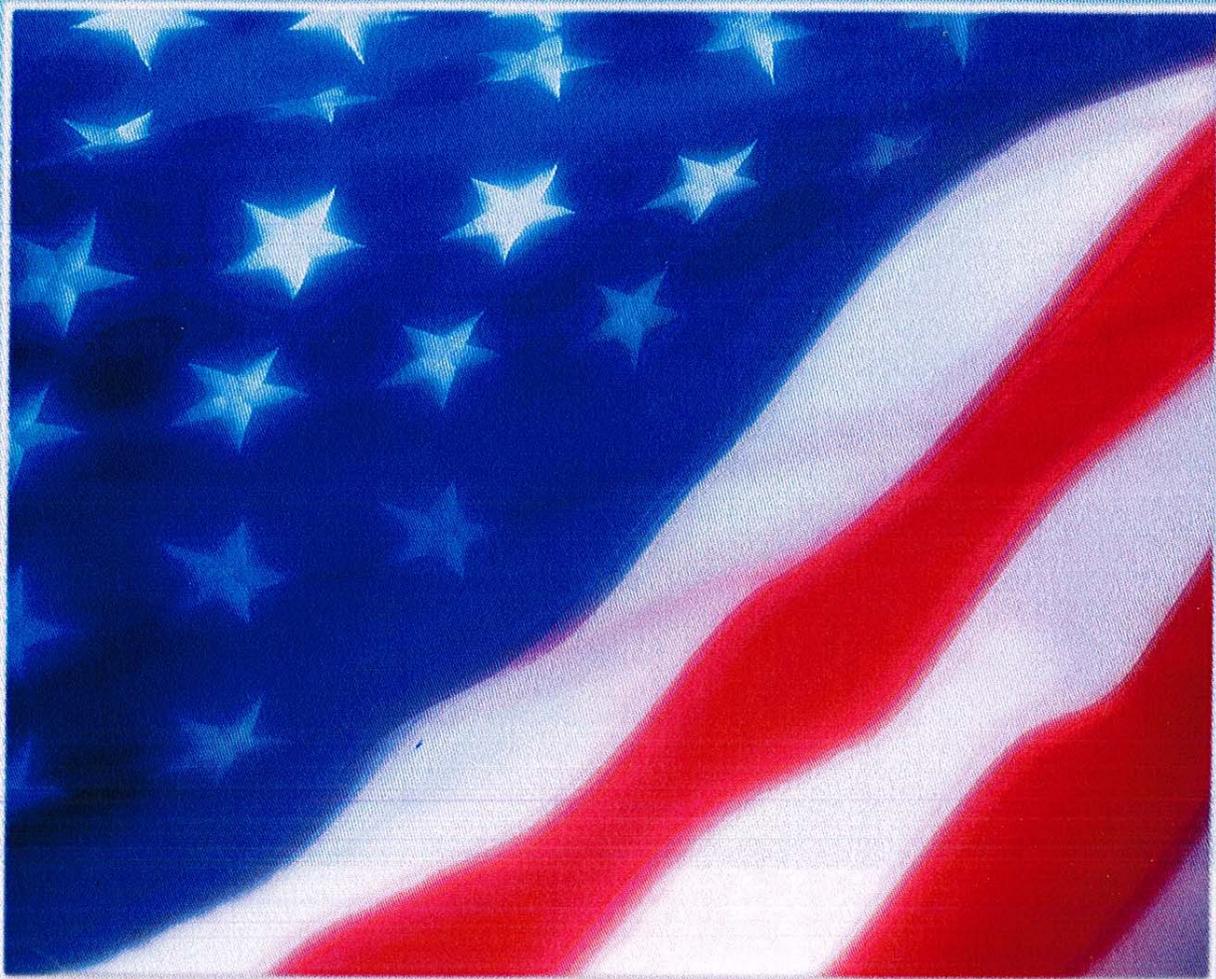
area of interest. Staff printed him off some of the options from Onet for him to review.

In order to provide Javier with the best resources for his situation, referred him to DARS. From there, he was connected to Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, VA. Javier immediately decided that he desired to sign up for their auto mechanic training program. He first had to go through an assessment for a few months to make sure that training was a good fit for him. Javier finished his assessment on schedule and started his mechanical training. Along the way, his counselor would always tell staff about the wonderful job Javier was doing in class.

Javier stayed on track with his goals and graduated in under a year of his training start date. Javier worked with his DARS counselor to go through job readiness

training and job search. Javier is now working at Pohanka Nissan as an auto mechanic. Telamon staff simply assisted him with purchasing the required tools he needed to begin. He seems very happy with his new job and staff is very proud of him! Congratulations, Javier!





**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
REGIONAL JOB & RESOURCE FAIR**

**Friday, September 29, 2017**

**10:00AM to 2:00PM**

**Berkeley 2000 Rec Center - 273 Woodbury Avenue, Martinsburg WV 25404**

**\*\*Employers that confirm attendance will be posted in the Martinsburg  
WorkForce WV office and on the Berkeley County Job Fair Facebook Page\*\***

**Sponsored by:** United States Senator Joe Manchin, WorkForce West Virginia, The  
167<sup>th</sup> WV Air National Guard, and Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce