

BUSINESS MONDAY



"Foot in the Door" graduates stand with representatives of Western Massachusetts Dress for Success after a graduation ceremony on Jan. 9.



"Foot in the Door" graduate Regina Friemoth, second from right, holds her National Career Readiness Certificate. With her, from left, are Dawn Creighton, president of Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Margaret Tantillo, executive director; and Jennifer Brown, vice president of business development with United Personnel.

'Foot in the Door' graduates 14

The third cohort of the "Foot in the Door" program - a partnership between Western Massachusetts Dress for Success and Training and Workforce

Options of Springfield Technical and Holyoke Community Colleges, recently celebrated its graduation.

Upon completing the nine-week training, 14 graduates were awarded National Career Readiness Certificates. Graduates already have interviews scheduled with TD Bank, MGM, Sunshine Village, Bay State Health and Smith & Wesson. One participant said she's decided to return to college and get her bachelor's degree.

These women are ready for the workforce due to a grant from Bay State Health and Smith & Wesson.

"If you had told me two years ago when we began building the 'Foot in the Door' program it would be this successful, I would have thought it was simply high expectations," said Dawn Creighton, president of the board of Western Massachusetts Dress for Success. "The caliber of the women coming out of this program being 'workforce ready' is amazing. We change their lives and their futures."

"The success of the 'Foot in the Door' program lies in the genuine partnership between Western Mass. Dress for Success and Training and Workforce Options ... As community-driven and -supported entities, we share a vision to empower individuals to their highest ability. We go together like warm bread and butter!" says Sharon Grundel, director, healthcare, non-profits and government contracts at TWO.

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Western Massachusetts Dress for Success is accepting applications and grants to begin its forth "Foot in the Door" cohort *this spring*; for more information, visit westernmass.dressforsuccess.org.

The latest "Foot in the Door" graduates are: Regina Marie Friemoth, Delphine Kabatesi, Adreanna Leonard, Tracy McCormier, Renee Mello, Antonia Monteiro, Maria Pelletier, Karina Pizarro, Nicole Rivera, Yvette Ryles, Kadine Thompson, Samantha Trombley, Beth Ward and Dorothy Wellman.