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Catherine Kempista
ckempista@TheDCH.org
302.388.5597

DCH Launches New Program Year for Branches to Chances – A Return to Work Program

Wilmington, DE – Today, the Delaware Center for Horticulture kicked off its 2017 Branches to Chances – A Return to Work Program, providing horticultural and life skills training to eight program participants. In 2016, DCH was the recipient of a two-year grant totaling almost \$150,000 from the State of Delaware’s Attorney General and Criminal Justice Council through the newly created State Reentry Funding Program, supporting nonprofits for the development or continuation of model reentry programs that sustain an individual’s transition to and stabilization in the community.

“We are excited to welcome our new class of Branches to Chances participants to DCH,” said Vikram Krishnamurthy, DCH’s Executive Director. “We are incredibly fortunate to have been able to expand our program this year thanks to our dedicated program partners and the grant funding from the Attorney General’s Office and the CJC. The training our program participants receive will not only position them for employment in the horticultural and green technology field but also equip them with additional financial management and technology life skills, which are important for success in any industry.”

The Branches to Chances program runs four days a week from 8 a.m. to noon for 11 weeks. Participants will work with DCH staff in all four of our primary program areas: Community Forestry, Urban Agriculture, Public Landscapes, and Education, learning solid landscaping and horticultural skills that translate to employment in the field. The curriculum combines classroom-based training sessions, hands-on skills development, and character-building experiences supervised by industry experts. After completion of the program, participants will be matched up with local employers and program partners to continue their training as employees or interns. Participants will graduate with marketable skills, industry contacts, personal satisfaction of improving their communities, and employer references.

The curriculum is endorsed by the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association as an Introductory Horticulture Training Program, and the program earned national recognition, winning the National Arbor Day Foundation’s 2014 Award for Education Innovation, which recognizes inventive horticultural programming.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture cultivates a greener community, inspiring appreciation and improvement of our environment through horticulture, education, and conservation.