



Jumpstart Savings Award to be Presented at SparkWV Competition



The West Virginia Jumpstart Savings Program is partnering with Spark West Virginia to present a \$500 Jumpstart Savings Award during this year's student competition at Bridging Innovation Week 2026 in Morgantown.

The business ideas competition will take place the week of April 27-30. During the week, West Virginia middle and high school students will present their ideas to compete for prizes. Individuals and teams will demonstrate creativity, initiative, and a strong vision for building their future in West Virginia.

With this partnership, the Jumpstart Savings Program encourages participants to take the next step in their career, whether that involves launching a business, investing in tools and equipment, or continuing their education.

For more information on Bridging Innovation Week, click [HERE](#).

West Virginia to Launch Office of Entrepreneurship

Thanks to a new law, West Virginia is taking another step toward supporting small businesses. Earlier this year, the West Virginia Legislature passed Senate Bill 878, which creates the West Virginia Office of Entrepreneurship under the direction of West Virginia's Secretary of State's Office.

The legislation, which takes effect July 1, 2026, creates the new agency designed to support entrepreneurs through the earliest stages of starting a business. The Office of Entrepreneurship will help new business owners navigate state requirements and regulatory processes for their respective industries.

Currently, eight other states have similar offices, but West Virginia is the first to have the office under direct supervision of an elected official.

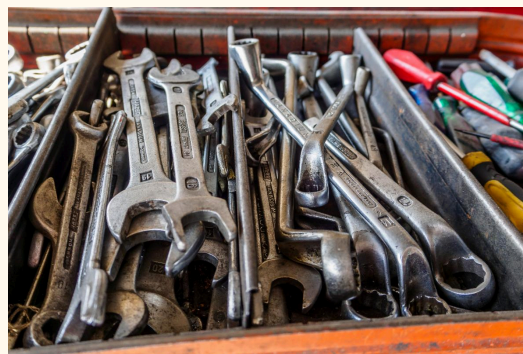
Interested in the Future of Trade Professionals? Join Our Mission!

The West Virginia Jumpstart Savings Program is seeking individuals who would like to serve on the Jumpstart Savings Program Advisory Committee. This committee will help strengthen the program and support West Virginians entering the skilled workforce.

The Advisory Committee will:

- Provide program feedback and recommendations
- Review program performance
- Expand program awareness
- Collaborate between industry, education, and workforce partners

Serving on the Advisory Committee is a meaningful way to support West Virginia's workforce and help individuals succeed as they begin their careers. If you are passionate about supporting West Virginia's skilled workforce, contact us for more information on how to get involved. Please send an email to wvjumpstart@wvsto.gov.



[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events

Connect with the Jumpstart Savings Program at one of these upcoming events:

4/23 - Aviation Technology, Energy and Manufacturing Career Fair (Bridgeport)

4/23 to 4/24 - 2026 WV FBLA Collegiate State Leadership Conference (Moorefield)

4/27 to 4/30 - Bridging Innovation Week 2026 Morgantown (Morgantown)

4/29 - WV GEAR UP (Charleston)

5/4 - Prepped and Polished at the AJC (Charleston) (See information to right)

5/19 - Metal Tech 2026 Supply Chain Expo (Huntington)

5/19 - Marion County Library (Fairmont)

5/21 - Jobs & Hope Career/Resource Fair (Charleston)

7/15-7/16 - Student Success Summit (Charleston)

COMMUNITY EVENT

The Kanawha County American Job Center (KCAJC) will host its Fourth Annual "Prepped and Polished On-the-Spot Hiring Event" on May 4 and 5 in South Charleston.

May 4: Prepped & Polished (On the Mound, 301 7th Ave.) Participants can receive free professional grooming services and gain help with resumes and interviews.

May 5: Hiring Event (South Charleston Rec. Center, 601 Jefferson Rd.)

More than 40 employers with current openings will conduct focused 10-minute interviews.

For more information, call 304-344-5760 or email

Does your organization or group need more information about the Jumpstart Savings Program?

Staff members are available for events, speaking engagements and conferences. If you or your organization would like to schedule an in-person or webinar speaker please email wvjumpstart@wvsto.gov or call 304-340-5055.



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