



**For Immediate Release
Contact: Matthew Scales**

Visit Harford Participates in First-ever Statewide Virtual Job Fair in Maryland

BEL AIR, MD (May 3, 2022) — In what is believed to be the first statewide tourism and hospitality job fair in Maryland’s history, Visit Harford is teaming up with destination marketing and tourism organizations from across the State and their workforce system counterparts are teaming up to address one of the travel and hospitality industry’s biggest challenges – filling thousands of open positions and retaining talent to welcome back visitors for what is expected to be a robust summer travel season. A statewide virtual job fair to benefit the future of the travel industry in Maryland will take place during National Travel & Tourism Week (NTTW) May 1 – 7, 2022.

The statewide virtual job fair is presented by the Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations, the Maryland Tourism Coalition, and their workforce system partners to assist the hospitality industry statewide.

Individuals seeking employment in Maryland’s hospitality and tourism industry will have the opportunity to meet virtually with employers from 19 Maryland counties, as well as Annapolis, the City of Baltimore, and Ocean City, on Wednesday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

“While hospitality and tourism are often within the top five economic industries globally, it is one of the most exciting professions in the world,” said Jay Ellenby, Chair of the Visit Harford Board of Directors. “Everyone loves talking about travel and this is the best industry to develop a long, fulfilling, and exciting career.”

According to a Tourism Economics report, the pandemic resulted in a net loss of more than 45,600 Maryland jobs that directly interact with visitors in 2020. That is more than 30 percent of all jobs directly supported by visitor activity. Even with those losses, visitor activity in Maryland continued to directly support 104,328 jobs, or 2.9 percent of all jobs in the state.

“The demand for talent in the hospitality industry is on the rise,” said Bruce England, Executive Director of the Susquehanna Workforce Network. “The problem-solving skills, teamwork, and soft skills required in the hospitality industry sets up individuals for long-term success. Positions in the hospitality industry not only offer flexibility, but a variety of different pathways and specialties to choose from to build a longstanding career. “



About the Virtual Statewide Job Fair on Wednesday, May 4, 2022:

- In addition to Annapolis, Ocean City and Baltimore City, employers from the following counties will be recruiting travel and hospitality talent during the virtual job fair: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester.
- **Employers** who are recruiting talent for positions within the 22 participating counties/cities are invited to register at: <https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/d7aZrW>.
- **Individuals** seeking employment in the participating jurisdictions are invited to register for the virtual job fair at: <https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/81rNrd>.

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About National Travel & Tourism Week: National Travel and Tourism Week 2022 (May 1-7) is an annual industry tradition celebrating the value travel holds for our economy, businesses, personal well-being and more. For more information, visit: <https://www.ustravel.org/toolkit/national-travel-and-tourism-week>.

About Visit Harford: Visit Harford! is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Harford County and its tourism attractions to visitors in order to stimulate economic activity for the enhanced quality of life of all Harford County citizens.