

# New Urban League program aids job-seekers, employers

BY WINIFRED YU

Staff writer

ALBANY — A program to develop employment skills for people receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children has been launched by the Urban League of Northeastern New York.

The program, called the Urban League Employment Enhancement/

**“A lot of employers we checked with said they had a hard time finding qualified entry-level applicants.”**

*— Carol Bourne*  
Urban League

Bridge, is sponsored by the State University of New York Office of Special Programs Bridge Program, the Albany County Department of Social Services and 11 area companies.

“A lot of employers we checked with said they had a hard time finding qualified entry-level applicants,” said Carol Bourne, the

league’s employment services coordinator and program founder.

“They don’t understand expectations of their employers, how to conduct a job search or present a good resume and references.”

Companies participating in the effort are Albany Savings Bank, First Albany Corp., Fleet Bank, IDS Financial Services, Key Bank, Matthew Bender and Co., OnBank, Pioneer Savings Bank, Solomon and Solomon, Troy Savings Bank and Trustco Bank. The companies are providing employees to train the participants, as well as computer equipment and more than \$100,000 financial support.

Participants in LEEP/Bridge must receive AFDC and have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma.

Among those attending the program is Benita Reynolds, 21, of Albany. Except for odd jobs, Reynolds has not worked since 1989, when she was a dietary aide at St. Peter’s Hospital. She is raising a son and daughter, and wants to find a job.

As a member of the first of six eight-week programs, she hopes to acquire computer skills that will ultimately lead to work as an accountant.

“My grammar is getting better, and I know how to get into a computer,” she said.



Times Union/PAUL D. KNISKERN S

**TAMU CHAMBERS**, job coach for the Urban League’s job training program, talks with class members Thursday at the Urban League offices in Albany.