

LI People ON THE MOVE

EDUCATION



Babak Beheshti of Bethpage, interim dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences at NYIT in Old Westbury, has been appointed dean.



Alicia Konecny of Deer Park has been hired as assistant superintendent for pupil personnel services in the **Deer Park School District**. She was principal of May Moore Primary School in Deer Park.

LAW

Weisman Law Group in Cedarhurst has two new hires.

Jean Williams Mercurio of Smithtown, hired as a senior attorney, was sole proprietor of Jean Williams Mercurio in Smithtown.

Tracy Golden of Oceanside, hired as an attorney, was a communications manager at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in Manhattan.

ENGINEERING

GEI Consultants Inc. in Huntington Station has two new hires.



Damon Oscarson of Floral Park, hired as a senior ecologist/project manager, was a senior environmental scientist at BL Companies in Meriden, Conn.



Greg Zouzianas of Garden City, hired as a project geologist, was an executive assistant/site worker at Midtown Green Construction Inc. in Maspeth, Queens.

— DIANE DANIELS

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INCREASING MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE TO \$20

The Associated Press



AP / MATT ROURKE

Bank of America will phase in the wage increase over two years. A raise to \$17 hourly goes into effect May 1.

Bank of America plans to raise its starting pay to \$20 an hour over a two-year period, the bank said Tuesday, starting with a hike next month.

The company, which has more than 200,000 workers, said it is raising its minimum hourly wage to \$17 on May 1 and will continue to increase pay until it hits \$20 an hour in 2021. Bank of America raised its hourly minimum wage to \$15 in 2017.

“If you get a job at Bank of America, you’ll make \$41,000 per year,” chairman and CEO Brian Moynihan said during a television interview on MSNBC.

BNB Bank, which increased its minimum wage to \$15 in early 2018 after new tax laws were implemented, said it would consider upping its minimum again.

“We will see where the market goes,” said Austin Stonitsch, chief talent officer at BNB. “The \$15 is our minimum, but that’s market-driven. There are some markets [where] we pay more. But we evaluate all of it on an annual basis.”

BNB Bank has 39 branches in Nassau and Suffolk counties, and in Manhattan and Queens.

Bank of America Corp., based in Charlotte, North Carolina, has more than 205,000 workers. It has 63 branches and about 1,300 employees on Long Island.

In the metro region, the banking industry employs 27,500 peo-

ple as bank tellers, who make a median hourly wage of \$15.37, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, 468,470 work as tellers, making median hourly wages of \$14.16.

“In general, we’ve seen a number of large employers over the last few years who have made commitments to raise wages for lower-paid workers,” said Martin Kohli, chief regional economist for the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The timing of Bank of America’s announcement is no coincidence. Moynihan and the CEOs of JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and three other banks will appear

before a House finance committee Wednesday in the most significant hearing on the banking industry since Democrats took control of the House earlier this year.

Banks have been trying to polish up their image ahead of the hearing, well aware they had a record year in profits in 2018 thanks to tax cuts passed by Republicans in 2017. Meanwhile, banking industry lobbyists have been pushing Congress to further unwind the rules and regulations put into place after the 2008 financial crisis.

Wells Fargo announced last week that CEO Tim Sloan would step down from his position effective immediately.

In a call with analysts, Sloan mentioned the political pressure over his leadership of the scandal-plagued bank had become too much.

At JPMorgan Chase, CEO Jamie Dimon used his annual letter to shareholders, which is read by people both inside and outside the banking industry, to sell shareholders on the wages and benefit increases JPMorgan had made to employees last year. JPMorgan now pays its workers \$15 to \$18 an hour, and recently cut the deductible low-wage workers need to pay to access health care as well.

With Victor Ocasio and David Reich-Hale

Catholic Health Services hires three new executives

BY DAVID REICH-HALE david.reich-hale@newsday.com

Catholic Health Services said it hired three key executives recently for its physician partners groups.

Dr. Christopher Windham has joined as vice president and chief medical officer of CHS Physician Partners, the health system’s network of 1,800 physicians. CHS also named Steven H. Stepp vice president of population health analytics at Physician Partners.

Also, Sunny P. Chiu will start on May 1 as chief administrative officer for the employed physician group, which includes about 250 physicians.

Chiu served recently as chief administrative officer for Mount Sinai Health Partners and as a vice president for its community practice unit. Previously, he was an executive director at Northwell.



CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES / WILLIAM BAKER

Dr. Christopher Windham has joined as vice president of CHS Physician Partners.

Windham, a surgical oncologist, was chief of oncology services and held the E.A. Morris Endowed Chair of Oncology for

Cone Health Cancer Centers in Greensboro, North Carolina. At Cone Health, Windham led a physician task force to redesign the compensation system to address quality metrics, engagement and other measures.

Windham, who started in the first quarter, said in an interview “Coordinating care across health care anywhere, is very challenging.” He said the more coordinated a system is, the “more accommodating it is for patients.”

Stepp was previously director of informatics and decision support at WakeMed Health & Hospitals in Raleigh, North Carolina. He led the health system’s data and analytics team. Previously, Stepp was director of business intelligence and engineering for UPMC Pinnacle, a health system that serves 10 counties in Pennsylvania.

New York’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program has created opportunities for health systems such as CHS to “really find value in our data,” Stepp said in an interview.

“Our care team has the metrics to help deliver better care,” said Stepp, who also started in the first quarter.

New York, through DSRIP, has tied Medicaid payments to better patient outcomes.

The \$8 billion program, phased in beginning in 2014, rewards health systems for investing in projects that focus on clinical improvements to keep patients healthy and out of the hospital, and especially to avoid costly visits to the emergency room.

Rockville Centre-based Catholic Health Services operates six hospitals on Long Island.