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BETHLEHEM – CareerLink celebrated the grand opening of its first job training and employment center inside the Hispanic Center in south Bethlehem Monday.

The center offers computer labs to search for jobs, classes in basic computer skills and other programs that aim to help people find and land jobs.

Prior to the opening at 520 E. Fourth St., those looking for those services would have to travel to Allentown where CareerLink has its main offices and a downtown center. CareerLink is now working on plans to open a

similar center in Easton.

Nancy Dischinat, executive director of Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board, said partnerships like the one between CareerLink and the Hispanic Center ensure more people are able to access critical services.

"Our vision of having a world class workforce includes reaching out to everyone in the workforce," Dischinat said. "It also means going beyond cooperation and collaboration with community partners like the Hispanic Center to integrate services."

The Hispanic Center also offers immigration consultation, food pantry, a senior center and other programs.

Since it quietly rolled out its center in Bethlehem last month, CareerLink reported that 27 people have come through the doors to inquire about its services.

Joining Dischinat at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley executive director Lorna Velazquez, Northampton County Executive John Brown, Mayor Robert Donchez, Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley vice chairwoman Donna Taggart, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Luis Campos and state Rep. Ryan MacKenzie.