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LifeSpan Launches New Partnership with thyssenkrupp Bilstein



HAMILTON, OH – LifeSpan has launched a unique partnership with thyssenkrupp Bilstein designed to provide onsite professional assistance to employees who may be experiencing obstacles preventing the achievement of personal or career goals. LifeSpan created the Life Coach position in response to the growing need expressed by employers to provide holistic wellness as a benefit to employees. LifeSpan's Life Coach, Sonja Cheatham, is a mental health and community resource professional. She will provide confidential, personalized, ongoing support to all thyssenkrupp Bilstein employees 5 days of the week.

For many, stress caused by family and/or unexpected life issues reduces work productivity, increases absenteeism, and impacts a person's general health. LifeSpan's Life Coaches will be a resource for employees to help them create solutions to everyday challenges, problem solve significant life matters, create realistic, meaningful action plans, and connect employees to community resources. "Cheatham is going to connect employees to available resources within the community and work on eliminating obstacles by exploring conflicts and strategies, and building confidence," said Joyce Kachelries, LifeSpan chief operating officer.

"I am excited about this partnership," said Bill Staler, LifeSpan chief executive officer. "I have often said that as a community, we have a number of resources available for job training and readiness but we have almost no resources for job retention. thyssenkrupp Bilstein is to be congratulated for recognizing that problems do not end once you start a job and that it is to everyone's benefit to help employees address their personal problems so they can remain productive."

"Our people are what make thyssenkrupp Bilstein so special, and this is one more way that we can support them both inside and outside of work," said Lindsey Stanfill, Human Resources Manager with thyssenkrupp Bilstein. "We are grateful to LifeSpan and the United Way for helping us bring this program to life. Having an on-site resource for our employees will help connect them with the community resources and solutions they need when an everyday challenge or immediate crisis arises."

Cheatham has a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Ohio University as well as a Masters in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Cincinnati. Her 20+ years of experience with social services has spanned mental health case management, to elderly services to social services for underprivileged children. "I am committed to and believe strongly in making sure that all people are treated fairly and guided in a non-judgmental manner," said Cheatham.

The Life Coach position is part of a collaboration between LifeSpan, the Cincinnati United Way Childhood Poverty Initiative, the Butler County United Way, and thyssenkrupp Bilstein. The onsite Life Coach concept is an innovative approach to solving external challenges that may impact employment, thus creating a more stable home environment for families and strengthening the fabric of our community.

About LifeSpan

LifeSpan, founded in 1945, serves clients from Butler, Warren and Hamilton Counties by offering innovative, cost-effective programs for individuals, families, groups and schools. LifeSpan's programs include Elderly Services Program, Coaching and Financial Wellness (formerly Financial Counseling and Education), School Based Support Services, Guardianship, and Representative Payee. To learn more, visit www.lifespanohio.org.

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