

# Iowa Workforce Bi-Monthly

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Issue 22



## Occupational Workplace Health and Safety

One goal of Iowa's Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Consultation and Education program is to reduce the incidence of injury or illness to workers by enhancing the ability to identify and control safety and health hazards.

IOSH offers free consultation services to help employers learn about potential hazards at their worksites and improve their occupational safety and health management systems. This service is delivered by the State of Iowa using well-trained professional staff.

Most consultations take place on-site, though limited services

away from the worksite are available. This confidential program is completely separate from the IOSH Enforcement staff, no citations are issued or penalties proposed.

SHARP and Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) are company recognition programs for safety and health management awarded by the Commissioner of Labor on behalf of the Governor of Iowa.

For more information, visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/consultation/index.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/iosh/consultation/index.htm).

## Iowa's Youth Employment Laws

With the end of the school year just around the corner, many Iowa youth will be looking for work during the summer.

Youth under 16 years of age cannot be employed or permitted to work, with or without compensation, unless the person, firm, or corporation employing the youth receives and keeps a work permit on file. The permit must be accessible to any officer charged with the enforcement of the child labor laws. The employer also is required to keep a complete list of the names and ages of any employed youth age 16 or younger.

Before a youth work permit can be given, the youth must first

provide a certified evidence of age. Acceptable forms include a certified birth certificate, current passport or a certified baptismal record. Once age has been established, the employer must then complete the work permit. The employer will specifically list all work to be performed by the minor, equipment that will be used and the hours to be worked. Parents will also be required to complete a section and sign the form. A complete child work permit form should be returned to the issuing office for review and approval.

For more information, visit <http://www.youthforiowa.org/laborlaws.html>.

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IOWA  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

# Message from the Director



**Teresa Wahlert**  
IWD Director

Earlier in the month, I was fortunate to travel with Iowa's official delegation to China for a trade mission to help foster many areas of growth throughout the state. Our team, which also included Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Representatives Annette Sweeney and Betty De Boef and Economic Dev. Director Debi Durham, had

the opportunity to learn about numerous sister programs, tour training facilities, meet with senior officials and more.

Our trip provided a number of opportunities to build relationships. I learned a great deal about the services and technology available in China through infrastructure tours of wind energy expansion, an in-depth overview of a training program and school for high speed rail, visiting the State Farm Bureau Headquarters and attending the Harbin Trade Show where we networked with companies having similar products to those produced in Iowa and the Midwest.

One of our primary goals was to promote the unique qualities of Iowa that make it a great place to do business, which includes our exceptional workforce. We

attended three seminars on growing Iowa's global partnerships, and held multiple meetings on economic development, workforce and agricultural opportunities in Iowa. Our contingency held numerous direct conversations with potential business partners and senior officials related to increasing their use of Iowa products and investing in Iowa opportunities. Through our direct meetings, we have increased South Korea's and China's interest in increasing imports from Iowa of corn, soybeans, hogs, beef, seed technology, and more. Additionally, a joint Memorandum of Understanding was presented to me by the Chinese Education Department to share language skills and job training technology. Lastly, our meetings helped to solidify a significant investment in Iowa that should be announced

in the near future. For a number of years, Iowa has maintained a Sister State Relationship. While on the trip, an event was held to recognize this long standing partnership. I'm proud to state that Iowa received the "People's Friendship Contribution" Award in Zhanjiangkou.

As Iowa continues to emerge from the past recession, our state will be growing thousands of jobs in both current and emerging industries. In order to attract the highest quality opportunities for our state, we must all work together to ensure that Iowa's workforce and business climate meets the needs of our new opportunities. It was an honor to represent the State of Iowa and all areas of Workforce Development in on this trade mission.

## Homeless Man Receives Assistance

### Dubuque IowaWORKS Success

Mike Bruder arrived at a Dubuque Rescue Mission in December 2010. His work in Florida doing oil clean up had dried up and he had no place to go.

He began train hopping up the east coast and eventually ended up in Dubuque.

"I'd jump off in a town to look for work or at least shower at a church or mission," said Bruder.

Penniless and jobless, Bruder signed up at the local IowaWORKS office. After working with number staff on the Membership and Skills Development Team, Bruder is now working



two jobs and attending college classes in computers and green construction.

"You just feel right in certain towns, and I feel comfortable here. I never thought I'd come to a strange town and in four months I'd have two jobs and be going to college," said Bruder. "You never should give up because tomorrow just might be better."

## Michael Klosterman

### Chief Boiler Inspector

Michael Klosterman was featured in the National Board Bulletin – a quarterly newsletter for the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

Klosterman has worked for the State of Iowa for over 30 years.

Klosterman learned about boiler work while in the Navy. He worked his way to second-in-command in the boiler room on the Navy ship, *Tripoli*.

After leaving the military, Klosterman began working for the State of Iowa as a power plant engineer

for the Iowa Veterans Home. During an event at the Iowa Veterans Home, Klosterman learned about State Boiler Inspectors and was hired three years later.

In late 2004, Klosterman became the temporary chief boiler inspector and was named permanently to that position later that year.

With the support of four boiler inspectors and a full- and part-time clerk, the department oversees approximately 23,000 boiler and pressure vessels.

# Parents Encouraged to Follow Amusement Ride Safety Guidelines

IWD is encouraging parents to remember safety at amusement parks this summer. Parents can protect kids from potential hazards by choosing suitable rides, riding along until they're old enough to protect themselves and teaching them how to ride safely.

"Amusement parks and carnivals can be a fun and safe experience but only if riders pay attention and follow all the safety rules," said Michael A. Mauro, Labor Services Commissioner. "Everyone should understand that amusement rides are dangerous places to fool around."

IWD enforces amusement ride safety throughout the state. Inspectors check all rides at stationary parks at least once a year and they inspect rides at carnivals or fairs every time the ride is set up in a new

location. A ride cannot legally operate without a permit from the Iowa Division of Labor Services.

Below are a few tips to keep in mind when visiting an amusement park:

- Take responsibility for your own safety. There are no mandatory child safety regulations on amusement park rides. Iowa does the inspect rides annually but it's up to you to make sure you and your family are following the rules.
- Don't board a ride that looks unsafe – even though parks and carnivals pay attention to safety, exceptions can occur.
- Make sure to follow your instincts and don't ride something that troubles you.
- Keep your arms, legs, feet and head inside the ride at all times – sometimes, hands

and feet that are dangling out of the car can get caught between the moving car or surrounding structures.

- Make sure seat belts and lap bars are locked tight – ask for help from the ride operator if you need help.
- Parents should be aware many rides approved for children are designed to fit adult bodies

and may leave small riders vulnerable to falls or forceful ejections. Make sure you pay attention to the posted weight and height restrictions.

If you would like more information, visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/amusement/htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/amusement/htm).



## Iowa Unemployment Rate Eases Slightly to 6.0 Percent

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.0 percent in May, but was down slightly from the year ago rate of 6.1 percent. Nationwide, the unemployment rate rose to 9.1 percent in May from 9.0 percent in April, while U.S. employers hired only 54,000 workers, the fewest in eight months.

"Iowa outperformed the nation in May by posting its strongest job growth for the year," said Teresa Wahlert, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "The state marked its fifth consecutive month of job gains led by strong hiring in the manufacturing sector."

The statewide estimate of unemployed persons edged down to 100,900

in May from 101,600 in April. The level of unemployed was reported at 102,100 one year ago.

The total number of working Iowans dipped slightly to 1,582,500 in May from 1,583,400 in April, but was 14,700 higher than the year ago total of 1,567,800.

Nonfarm employment grew at its strongest

pace for the year in May, increasing to 1,485,800. The gain of 4,400 was the strongest monthly increase since October 2010, when 7,000 jobs were added. The good-producing sectors—construction and manufacturing—fueled most of the job growth that occurred during the month.

# Worker Memorial Day - April 28, 2011

Iowans gathered Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, to pay tribute and to reflect upon the lives of the Iowa workers who lost their lives in 2010 while at work. Fallen workers were remembered at a Workers' Memorial Day ceremony held at Iowa Workforce Development in Des Moines.



Military Members honored include:  
 Lt. Col. Robert F. Baldwin, 39  
 Capt. David A. Wisniewski, 31  
 Specialist Christopher W. Opat, 29  
 Lance Corporal Johsua Davis, 19  
 Command Sgt. Maj. John K. Laborde, 53  
 Captain Daniel Whitten, 28



## Those honored in this year's ceremony include:

- |                       |                           |                    |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Doug Barkema, 52      | Timothy Eubanks, 43       | Michael Keegan, 57 | Larry Reisner, 52      |
| David Bellows, 22     | Jonathan Ford, 39         | Warren Knuth, 50   | Cody Schmit, 16        |
| Brent Blietz, 24      | Thomas Fosdick, 49        | Karl Krueger, 63   | Johsua Servantez, 23   |
| Gerald Boge, 35       | Faron Fritz, 31           | Thomas Lichter, 61 | Thomas Shelton, 66     |
| Vicky Bowman-Hall, 47 | Armando Garcia-Vargas, 31 | Willis Lueders, 77 | Denver Smith, 35       |
| Thaddeus Brown, 48    | Chris Gehringer, 56       | Leroy Madsen, 58   | Kent Stahl, 50         |
| George Burgess, 65    | Loren Goodwin, 67         | Richard Martin, 37 | Sheryl Stoolman, 54    |
| David Carey, 28       | John Gordon, 61           | Kenneth Mathes, 24 | Dave Thompson, 57      |
| Kevin Clark, 52       | David Herrig, 57          | Jeffrey McAdam, 46 | Robert Thompson, 55    |
| John Cloyd            | Marlin Hopkey, 64         | Sheila Myers, 61   | Nicanor Viramontes, 46 |
| Adam Danhauer, 24     | Lloyd Houston, 52         | Ron Newendorp, 52  | David Weaver, 65       |
| Francisco DeJesus     | Nicholas Hudelson, 25     | Robert Opfer       | Stephen Weeks, 55      |
| Russell Edwards, 44   | Joseph Jones, 72          | Daniel Raber, 64   |                        |

# IowaJobs.org: A Valuable Job Search Site

Whether looking for a job or seeking to hire qualified applicants, Iowa Workforce Development encourages Iowans to begin their search with IowaJobs.org.

For Job Seekers:

- At any given time, over 20,000 jobs are posted for positions throughout the state
- Jobs pulled from many of Iowa's top employer websites – this ensures the most current jobs
- Jobs are available in real time – watch

the numbers change automatically

For Employers:

- Gain access to qualified applicants via job screening options
- Jobs are automatically posted to several other sites at no cost
- Job postings may be pulled directly from your current website
- Access to labor market information and other employment data

"By using IowaJobs.org, employers and job

seekers can take advantage of the many services we provide," said Teresa Wahlert, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "IowaJobs.org offers something for everyone statewide."

With thousands of internet views per day, IowaJobs.org can offer a unique pool of applicants that no one else can provide.

To learn more about how IowaJobs.org can help you, contact your local IowaWORKS office.



## Misclassification of Iowa Workers: A Growing Problem

Misclassification of workers as "independent contractors" rather than "employees," is a growing problem in Iowa and across the nation. The federal Government Accountability Office reports that the underpayment of Social Security taxes, unemployment and income taxes in 2006, due to worker misclassification, totaled an estimated \$2.72 billion, nationally.

Iowa employers must report wages to Iowa Workforce Development's

Unemployment Division and pay unemployment tax on wages paid to employees as required.

Iowa employers must generally withhold state and federal income taxes, and withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes. When employers misclassify workers:

- They avoid paying these taxes.
- They might avoid workers' compensation coverage.
- They might fail to follow wage, contractor

registration, or other employment and labor laws.

- They underbid honest, law-abiding businesses that pay all taxes owed.

Misclassification of workers threatens Iowa's economy, its businesses and its most important resource – it's workers.

The Iowa Legislature provided special funding for extra help to protect workers, law-abiding businesses, and taxpayers.

For questions about misclassification, there

are several ways to contact them.

- Call the IWD Misclassification Unit at (515) 281-3191 or (800) JOB-IOWA (800-562-4692).
- Send an email to [Misclassification@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Misclassification@iwd.iowa.gov).
- Contact the Iowa Department of Revenue.
- Write to the Misclassification Unit, Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319.

# Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. Here are a few noteworthy comments we've received:

– Jon Murad, Sioux City, received a call from Patricia Redmond. She attended the RES program and also completed testing for the National

Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program all in one day. "The Region 12 office runs like a well-oiled machine," shared Redmond. "I just wanted to tell someone how impressed I was with your customer service."

– Brian Gray with the U.S. Probation Office sent

a note to Lori Adams, Des Moines; Brenda Tart, Marshalltown; Steve McCann, Des Moines; and Debbie Mascaro, Des Moines for the partnership in the area of offender workforce development.

"Through collaboration with your agency and

other partners, we are forging ahead, educating others, and providing much needed attention to this population," said Gray. "Your agency is miles ahead of other such agencies around the country and our office is looking forward to working with all of you."

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, send it to: [kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov).

## Iowa Workforce Monthly

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For Deaf or Hard of Hearing, call Relay 711

*Iowa Workforce Monthly* is intended to help keep Iowa employers, job seekers and IWD employees informed about critical employment issues affecting Iowa. For more information, contact Kathryn Hommer via e-mail at [kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov) or (515) 281-5407.

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Coordinator

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program  
Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

## Employee News

### Anniversaries

#### 5 Years

Christopher Godfrey  
Richard Hill  
Sandra Oattes  
Adam McElhenny  
Robert Tryon  
Alison Tupper

#### 10 Years

Venus Vendoures Walsh  
Roberta Schrader  
Terri Rubner  
Michelle Zwank  
Rita Miller  
Chrstiana Wold  
Veronica Young  
Brent Garrett  
Carie O'Brien

#### 15 Years

Marty Alexander  
Jodi Cottle  
Jeannie Cox  
Terryne Densmore  
Siriporn Loucks

#### 20 Years

Violet LeFlore  
Hyginus Nwizu  
Donna Burkett  
Jude Igbokwe

#### 25 Years

Irma Lewis  
Elizabeth Pruisner  
Robert Lilland

#### 30+ Years

Michael Klosterman  
John Carr  
John Pearce  
Cindy Gardner  
Phouvaly  
Chounlamountry

### Promotions/ Transfers

Corey Watt  
Michael Mauro  
Mary Lou Woods

### Retirements

Tena Gaskill  
David Neil  
Mary Lavender  
Barbara Schenk

### New Hires/Temporary

Saritha Aramkandath  
Carolyn Farley  
Bradley Franson  
Sridhar Gorrepati  
Jonathan Linnenbrink  
Lillian Nwizu  
Nicholas Olivencia  
Kyle Smith  
Marvin Miller  
Richard Thielman