

Behind Bars, Career Planners Helped Him Cultivate a Life After Lock-up



Three years after he found himself in an Iowa prison, John C. Barnes III looks back on that arrest as the shock he needed to build a better life – and he's grateful for help from the IowaWORKS advisor who kept driving him to pursue a real career.

Advisor Terry Zmolek "pushed me," a now-free Barnes said by telephone from Kansas earlier this fall. "He said, 'You could do so much better with your life than the direction that you're currently going in.' He said, 'You have a chance to be something more than you are.' "

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Welcome to Your New Workforce Newsletter

Iowa's workforce is facing challenging times. As we move past COVID-19, address old imbalances, and plan for the future, Iowa is launching new programs and creating new tools to match employers with the skilled workers they need.

In short, there's a lot going on.

This new e-newsletter, which we're calling **The Workforce Wire**, is one way we hope to help you keep track of it all. Once a month, we'll use this space to help you understand complicated topics, get ready for upcoming events, and learn about successful programs that you might otherwise miss.

We're looking forward to sharing it all with you. [Email us](#) if there's something specific you'd like to see.

Happy reading.



Iowa is Winning Choice for Life After the Army

How does a military family start planning for life outside the service?

As her husband inched toward retirement from the U.S. Army, Lauren Foust knew what she wanted in a new home, and she knew how to search for it. Ultimately, she found it in Des Moines.

"Iowa just checked all the boxes," Foust said. "Des Moines has a small-town feel for a big city. There's a lot that's ideal here that people don't realize."

Foust, a former claims adjudicator for the Georgia Department of Labor, had followed her husband across the globe, including two years in South Korea. But as his imminent retirement date was becoming a reality, there were new decisions that needed to be made.

Where would they live? Her family was in Georgia and his was in the northwest. Job opportunities abounded. But how do you make that choice?

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 **www.iowaWORKS.gov**



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Learn by Listening



More than 10,000 downloads so far by listeners around the world. Ryan West is your guide to a host of workforce programs and people making a difference.

[Click here to download.](#)



Our Video Salute to Veterans

If you missed it on Veterans Day, click above to view our short video salute to Iowa veterans. Visit www.HomeBaseIowa.gov for more about ways to connect veterans with the resources they need to transition to new careers.

Director Townsend on Apprenticeships



Abraham Lincoln was a nationally recognized legal expert long before he became the 16th president of the United States. He achieved this without a degree from Harvard or Yale or any other university. Indeed, Lincoln's formal education was almost nonexistent.

So, how did Lincoln nevertheless manage to become an accomplished attorney? He apprenticed.

Nearly two centuries later, Lincoln's training method remains viable today — and it's an essential tool for Iowa employers seeking to build their own workforce in a state where skilled labor remains in high demand.

[Read the Des Moines Register opinion article.](#)

Reemployment Case Management Program to Launch in January



Iowa Workforce Development will start the new year with a new sense of urgency about unemployment by launching a new program with more assistance for the jobless and new incentives to help unemployed Iowans find careers as quickly as possible.

The new Reemployment Case Management program, which is expected to launch in early January, will use a combination of new staff and new technology to provide extra help for jobless Iowans beginning with the first week they file an unemployment claim. IWD is hiring 18 new IowaWORKS Career Planners to meet weekly with the newly unemployed and to make direct connections for them with any needed programming and educational opportunities.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

Upcoming Events / Opportunities

JOIN US
JOB FAIR FRIDAYS
December 3, 10, and 17 2021 1PM—3PM

IowaWORKS
A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

Triton Circle, Fort Dodge IA

Don't miss your opportunity to meet with hiring managers from some of the top companies and industries in the region. New employers will be on-site each week visiting with job seekers and conducting on-the-spot interviews. Tell your friends, bring your resume, and get ready to start your new career journey!

515-576-3131

DECEMBER 13, 2021

WELLMAN
1500 COMMERCE ROAD CRESTON, IA
HIRING EVENT

FAR ABOVE WAY BEYOND

OPEN POSITIONS:
MEAT MEAT OPERATOR
FOUNDRY WORKER
A-DAY (DAY 1) MACHINIST
COATING ROOM FINISHER
BOLT ROOM OPERATOR
INTEGRITY PARTWORKER
WELDER MANUFACTURER

Hiring Event
Monday, December 13, 2021
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

IowaWORKS
215 N. Elm
Creston, IA 641-782-2119

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INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ASK A REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS BY EMAILING: USERS@IOWAWORKS.COM OR CALLING 801-782-2119. REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED THREE BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

Newton

JOB FAIR

Location:
DMACC Newton Campus
600 N. 2nd Ave. W A
Newton, IA 50208

December 9th
7:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

December 10th
7:00 am - 12:00 pm

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DMACC
DES MOINES AREA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fair Directory available during job fair for employer information and scheduled times.
Directorio de la feria disponible durante la feria de trabajo para información y horarios de los empleadores.

CHILD CARE CHALLENGE FUND
Apply before December 10!

FUTURE READY IOWA

EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND
Apply before December 17!

FUTURE READY IOWA

Special Tuesday
Grab A Job

★ LOCAL EMPLOYER HIRING EVENT - 1:00 - 3:00 PM ★

DECEMBER 14TH

