

State Center Used Future Ready Iowa Grant to Build a Peace Officer Pipeline



McKenna Link always admired police officers. But for a long time, her status as a 5-foot, 2-inch female with a high-pitched voice kept her from seriously considering law enforcement as a viable career opportunity.

“It’s something that I completely wrote off, but it’s something that I always wanted to do if given the chance,” she said.

Link, at the urging of some female law enforcement acquaintances, decided to take that chance when she learned last year of a reserve peace officer training program operated through the State Center Police Department. Funded through a Future Ready Iowa Grant, the two three-month academies in 2021 provided more than 50 would-be officers with free training, lodging, and in some cases child care to attend classes from across Iowa.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

IWD's Mission: "Serving Iowans"

Iowa Workforce Development changed its mission statement this month. Where the old version referred to “connecting workers to opportunities and employers to workforce solutions,” the new statement simplifies everything into two words:

“Serving Iowans.”

In an email to team members, IWD Director Beth Townsend said the new version “best reflects what we do and who we serve,” regardless of what part of



Applications Due Soon for Internship Grants

Iowa has opened another round of funding opportunities for employers, nonprofits, and educational and community groups seeking to provide high school youth with internship opportunities.

Now available for the fourth consecutive year, Future Ready Iowa’s Summer Youth Internship Project grants are designed to help youth explore and prepare for high-demand careers while gaining work experience

the agency is involved.

“At the end of the day, we are and have been working hard to help lowans by helping them find a good job, file for unemployment benefits, helping them find workers, or helping them pay their taxes,” Townsend said. “Keeping it simple means it’s easier to recall as we go through our days.”

For more about how Iowa Workforce Development is serving lowans, [read our latest annual report](#).

and developing the personal attributes necessary to succeed in the workplace.

A total of \$250,000 will be available for programs this summer. **Applications must be submitted through www.iowaGrants.gov by March 2, 2022.** (See "Upcoming Events" below for a webinar link.)

Priority for funding will be given to programs that provide internships to high school youth who are at risk of not graduating, from low-income households, from communities under-represented in the Iowa workforce, or who otherwise face barriers to success and upward mobility in the labor market.

Grant funds may be used for services and resources to support costs of program participants, including for example: internship wages, training resources, transportation of the participants, clothing, program staff time and indirect costs.

For more information, visit www.futurereadyiowa.gov/youth-intern-projects.



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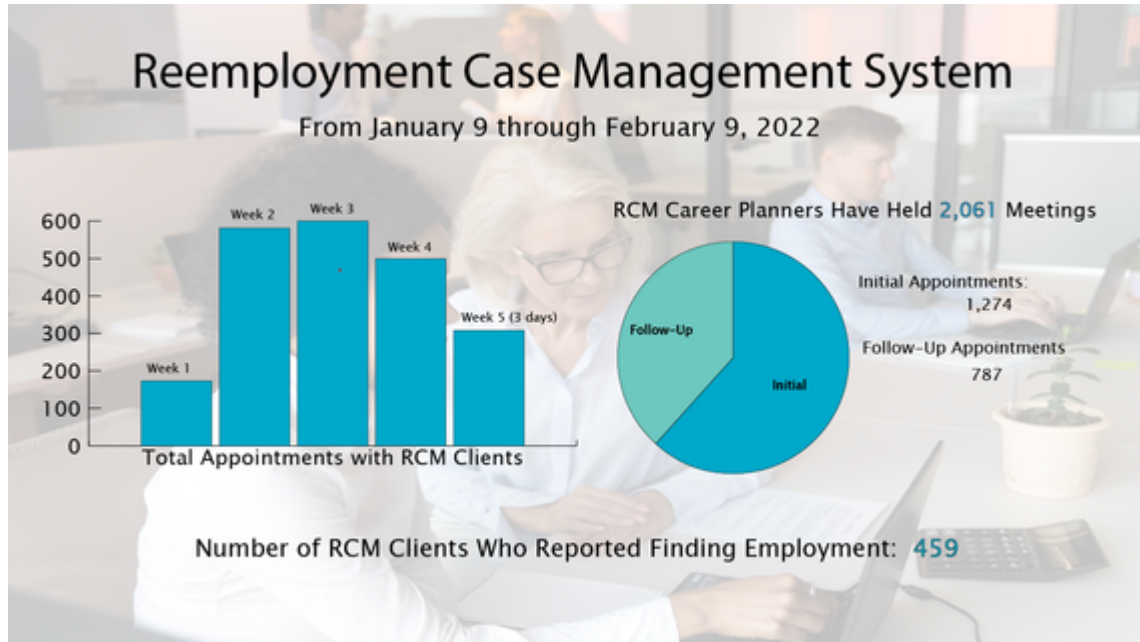
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Video: STEM in Iowa Classrooms

Last month, IWD visited a classroom for Computer Science Week to take a look at the advanced STEM topics that are being covered in some Iowa elementary schools.
(Click the photo above to view our video.)

RCM by the Numbers



Iowa Workforce Development launched its Reemployment Case Management system earlier this year to add a new sense of urgency to getting unemployed Iowans back into the workforce. The new program provides most unemployment claimants with weekly assistance from an IWD Career Planner to help them assess their skills and match those skills with in-demand jobs.

IWD career planners have had more than 2,000 meetings with clients since the program started, while more than 450 claimants have left unemployment because of new careers. [Click here](#) for more information about RCM.

Promoting Innovation by Teaching Tech





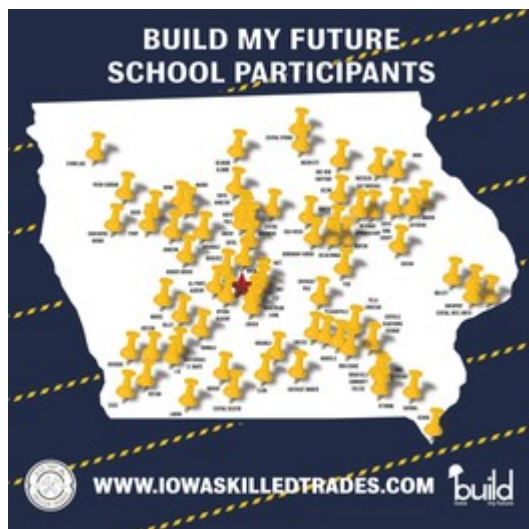
Nancy Mwiroti sees the potential in making connections. But her drive is to make *you* see it, too.

Mwiroti, a Kenyan immigrant now nearing the end of her seventh year as executive director year of Pi515, a highly respected nonprofit in Des Moines, sees both looming challenges and enormous possibility for Iowa's economy in the years ahead.

"It feels like companies are starting to listen to us, and I really hope that continues," Mwiroti said. "It's a matter of urgency now. We have to be serious about looking at the 2030 numbers, because we will pay the price if we don't do anything."

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

Build My Future: April 13, 2022



Build My Future is an annual effort to inform young people, educators, and others, about what it's like to work in the skilled trades industry. Sponsored by the Des Moines Home Builder's Association, the event gives students the chance to take part in dozens of hands-on activities featuring everything from carpentry and electrical to plumbing and welding.

Build My Future takes place April 13, 2022, in the Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. **For more information, visit www.iowaskilledtrades.com.**

Other Upcoming Events / Opportunities

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IowaWORKS For More Information: 641-724-1488 **IOWA VALLEY**

Business & Organization

Summer Youth Intern Project Grant



(Link to webinar)

Develop a Career Plan

Planning a future career-- now what? Find what is important to you and what career would be the best fit and go for it!



Vet-Working After Hours!

When: Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Where: R Place Pub and Pizza | 1790 Giddings St. Kelley, IA 50134

Join us for an after hours Vet-Working event for veterans to learn about available resources and network with other veterans. There will be a variety of resources available to assist veterans, as well as several employers and hiring opportunities. This event is FREE of charge and spouses are welcome.

We hope to see you there!

For more information, contact
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