

Iowa Workforce Monthly



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- The Siouxland Tri-State Region is currently taking interest surveys for a potential wind energy company.pg. 2
- Over twenty businesses participated in a job fair last month in Red Oak.....pg. 3
- Over 70 employers from across southwestern Iowa attended a seminar hosted by the SW Iowa division of the Employers Council of Iowa.....pg. 3

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Iowa’s STEM Occupation Study

Iowa Workforce Development’s division of Labor Market Information recently released newly updated projections for the industries of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The study evaluates a selection of occupational groups that had a preponderance of tools and skills from science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics.

This study anticipates more than 18 percent growth in all Iowa STEM industries by the year 2016. The highest percentage of growth is in the field of Computer and Mathematical occupations of almost 23 percent.

That is followed by a more than 19 percent projected growth in the Health care practitioner and Technical occupational fields.

The study also found that the mean wage for workers from these STEM occupational groups of \$27.97 is more than 60 percent higher than the \$17.43 average for all occupations.

Educational and training requirements are also higher than other occupations, with close to 41 percent requiring postsecondary education or bachelor’s degree.

Visit <http://iwin.iowaworkforce.org/> to obtain the latest workforce data and trends under the Publications tab.

Women in Business Study

A study recently released by Iowa Workforce Development’s Labor Market Division determined that, on average, females who are paid an hourly wage earn 78.2 cents for every dollar earned by a male. This is an update to a study that was completed in 1999 which found that females made approximately 73 cents for every dollar made by males in Iowa.

“This study shows us that there are persistent and significant gaps in the earnings between men and women,” said

Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. “While Iowa has improved over the last 10 years, we still have work that needs to be done.”

The study also finds that the majority of women who participated in the study work in the education, health care, social services, finance, insurance or real estate fields.

Sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, visit www.women.iowa.gov for more information.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

April is almost over and it's time for another newsletter. We have been working hard this past month and have lots of great information to bring you.

Below you will find information for those of you in the Siouxland Region. A wind company was looking to see what interest there would be for workers if they opened a plant in the area. This would

be a great opportunity for the region. We were very pleased with the response from our Siouxland Workforce and look forward to hopefully sharing more information in the future.

We have also included information regarding the 2009 Workers' Compensation Symposium. This will be a great opportunity to provide attendees with an increased knowledge of workers'

compensation.

-You can also receive continuing education credits.

Red Oak recently held a job fair and had an amazing turnout.

Please take a few minutes to read about the job fair. We look forward to hearing many success stories.

Interest Surveys taken for Siouxland Wind Energy Project

The Siouxland Tri-State Region took interest surveys for a potential wind energy company. The company was surveying the community for a potential of 400 employees to work for a leading, progressive and growing advanced manufacturing company in the area of wind energy. Potential job opportunities included:

- Administrative Assistants/ Receptionists
- Assembly
- Quality/Safety Control & Assurance
- Electronic Technicians
- Field Agents

- Human Resources
- Logistics Management
- Office Management
- Plant Management
- Information Technology (IT) Positions
- Machinists
- Computer Controlled Machine Operators
- Warehouse Workers
- Manufacturing/Mechanical Engineers

The company offers a competitive wage and benefit package including health, disability and life insurance, retirement plan and vacation. Wage range \$16.00/hr to \$25.00/hr.

The Sioux City Workforce Center took the surveys between April 17th and 24th. Surveys were also completed online.

The Siouxland workforce really turned out to complete the surveys. In one week, just over 4,400 surveys were completed. All information will be given to the company. If they decide to move forward, those who completed the surveys will be submitted as applicants.

For more information, call the Sioux City office at (712) 233-9030.

47th Annual Workers' Compensation Symposium

June 11th & 12th

Hotel Fort Des Moines

1000 Walnut St.

Des Moines, IA 50309

www.iowaworkforce.org/wc/

Join the Iowa Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee, at its Annual Workers' Compensation Symposium to learn more about workers' compensation.

Learn about:

- What's new in Division of Workers' Compensation
- New legislation and administrative rules
- Recent case law
- Trends in workers' compensation

Presenters include:

- Doctors
- Lawyers
- Other experts

Iowa Workforce Partners, KCCI Channel 9 and The Des Moines Register proudly present the:

2009 Job Expo

**April 28, 2009
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Polk County
Convention Complex
in Des Moines**

- Free to the Public
- Business attire and resumes are welcome and encouraged
- Apply for full-time or part-time openings

Great Turnout for Red Oak Job Fair

Over twenty businesses participated in a job fair last month in Red Oak. An overflowing parking lot was a sign that the workforce in Red Oak is eager to return to work.

Almost two years ago, ROMECH closed its doors, laying off nearly 400 workers. More recently, in a surprise move within weeks of new management's takeover, Echo Windows, formerly TRACO, closed in spite of incoming orders.

That plant closing left over 100 without jobs, though some had worked more than 10 years with the company. With other area businesses experiencing the domino effects of a slowing economy,

dozens attended the job fair to see if they could find a good fit for their skills and knowledge.

The businesses were pleased with the turnout and are looking forward to bringing quality people into their companies.



Southwest Iowa ECI Holds Seminar

Over 70 employers from across southwestern Iowa attended a seminar hosted by the SW Iowa division of the Employers' Council of Iowa. The seminar topic was "Writing Employee Handbooks and Job Descriptions."

IWD Attorney Barb Tapscott and Workforce Advisor Craig Immerfall presented the information that focused on the reasons why every organization should have

an employee handbook and job descriptions. They even provided examples of of handbooks companies are using.

Cat from Iowa Fittings sent a note saying "This session was especially informative and gave me several things to consider that I had not thought about before."

This seminar was clearly a success. If you would like more information, visit www.iowaworkforce.org or call (800) 562-4692.



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

– Kathryn Hommer, Marketing & Communications Coordinator would like to thank **Randy Clark**

(Ottumwa), Christy Roush (Fairfield), Sharon Wilson (Mt. Pleasant), Yvette Harris (Burlington), Diane Harris (Burlington), Debbie Dowell (Burlington), Marcy Hyshe (Ft. Madison), Julie Harland (Iowa City) and Ann Jorgenson (Newton).

“Everyone was very welcoming and took the time to show me their office. I would like to thank them for their

excellent customer service.” – Steven McCann, Des Moines, received a voice mail from Juanita Knutson complementing **Alan Muntz (Des Moines) and Dennis Thompson (Des Moines).** “They have taken a very, very unpleasant, traumatic experience, finding yourself unemployed, and provided excellent customer service. If it wasn't for them, this

whole experience would be impossible, and I just wanted to pass on my compliments for some of the best use of the taxpayer's money in these two men.”

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, send it to: kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov or 515-281-5407.

Iowa Workforce Monthly

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(800) 562-4692

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 or 515-281-5407.

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Employee News

Anniversaries

5 Years

Joe Mowers

10 Years

Connie Kuebler

Shelli Tobis

Patricia Underwood

15 Years

Cheryl Darell

20 Years

Angela Dickey

Melana Hammond

30+ Years

Cindy Kutchen

John Carr

Rand Cramer

James Shenk

Norman Bissell

Barbara Buck

Shirley

Winebrenner

Sheryl Kelce

New Hires

Rebecca Jackson

Leslie Schmalzried

Alyssa Sweeney

Lawrence Daft

Rhonda Regan

Retirements

Richard Byers

Errol Ellefson

Jane Repp

Roger Hayenga

Joseph Philip

Promotions/ Transfers

Angela Dickey

Stephen Holm

Teresa Cheers



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.