

Iowa Workforce Monthly



Highlights:

- Governor Chet Culver announced a major public-private partnership between Microsoft and the State of Iowa.....pg. 2
- Daniel Skella worked with IWD after being release from prison...pg. 2
- Iowa Workforce Development works with offenders to find gainful employment after being released...pg. 3
- The Davenport Workforce Development Center has been nominated in recognition for providing older workers with job opportunities in a senior-friendly workplace...pg. 3

Inside this Issue:

- Director's Message.....pg. 2
- New Regional Manager Announced.....pg. 2
- Employee Anniversaries.....pg. 4
- Employee Retirements.....pg. 4
- Employee Acknowledgements.....pg. 4



Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Employers can receive valuable tax credits by taking advantage of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

A few new target groups have been added for 2009. In general, any unemployed veteran or disconnected youth who works for an employer in 2009 or 2010 shall be treated as a member of a targeted group eligible for the WOTC.

An unemployed veteran is defined as:

- having been discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces during the period beginning on Sept 1, 2001 and ending on Dec 31, 2010 and;
- being in receipt of unemployment compensation

under State or Federal Law for not less than 4 weeks during the 1-year period ending on the hiring date.

Disconnected youth are defined as:

- having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date;
- not regularly attending any secondary, technical or postsecondary school during the six month period preceding preceding the hiring date;
- not regularly employed during such six month period &
- not readily employable by reason of lacking a sufficient number of basic skills.

If you would like more information, about WOTC contact:

Jeanne Sorenson-Wright
(515) 281-9010

Workforce Offices begin to Integrate

Over the last year, IWD has been working on an Integration Project that will change the way services are delivered to customers.

The goal is to better assist customers by training staff in the following programs:

- Employment Services (Wagner-Peyser)
- WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker Services
- Trade Adjustment Act Services
- Veteran Services
- New Iowan Center
- Unemployment Insurance

This will allow offices to provide Iowa businesses with the skilled workers they need while workers gain and expand skills that are in demand.

On July 10th, the Des Moines Workforce Center became the first Integrated One-Stop office. Creston followed on July 20th.

Other launch dates are:

- Dubuque on Aug. 28th
- Ft. Dodge on Sept. 30th
- Council Bluffs on Oct. 1st

For more information, visit www.iowaworkforce.com

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

What a wonderful summer we've had. Let's hope this gorgeous weather continues through the State Fair.

At IWD, we have been working for over a year to evaluate to better deliver our services to customers. We decided that we needed to integrate all of the programs and services so that customers can get it all at

one-stop. Integration, as we refer to it, began in the Des Moines office on July 10 with the Creston office following on July 20th. We are excited to see the planning coming to fruition and moving forward in this process.

Another exciting development this last month was the partnership with Microsoft and the Elevate America program. Unemployed lowans can get

the IT skills, training and resources needed to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Vouchers for e-learning courses are available at no cost for up to 5,700 unemployed lowans.

For more information, visit www.iowaworkforce.org/elevateamerica.

IWD teams with Microsoft to offer free training to Iowa's workers

Governor Chet Culver announced a major public private partnership between Microsoft and the State of Iowa to provide free technology training for up to 5,700 unemployed lowans.

Iowa's economy has gone through a tremendous transformation over the past 10 years. It used to be that an Iowa worker could work 30 or 35 years for the same company and retire. If that worker did lose their job before retirement, they could rely on their work history and job title to qualify for their next job. Loyalty, dedication and a strong work ethic were valued to the point that workers

could rely on those traits as security in the competitive employment market.

The reality of the situation is that type of job security is a thing of the past. A worker's primary security in the new economy is in their individual skill set. Over time, Iowa has transformed in to a "skills based" economy. Labor has become more technical. Workers must possess demand driven skills and be able to describe and deliver their skill sets to have security in the modern economic environment. Even more important, workers must continuously improve and modernize their skills to keep

up with the changing world of work. Consequently, Iowa's workforce must embrace lifelong learning as an important and necessary component to security in the modern economy. On July 15, Iowa is took another step forward in developing a skills based workforce for the future.

In cooperation with Microsoft Corporation, the State of Iowa is pleased to offer vouchers for E Learning courses at no cost to you. Get the IT skills, training and resources you need to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Ex-Offender Success Story

Daniel Skella worked with IWD after being release from prison. After being hired as the Head of the Maintenance Department for a local hotel, Skella sent a short note thanking IWD and Amber Connolly for the assistance he received.

"Thank you for all your help. I just finished my first day on the job. I found the adjustment to be more difficult than I imagined. Finding balance was difficult for me to do.

I was grateful for the training I received. I was able to get my job based on my resume and cover letter only. No application was ever filled out. I think what you're doing is a great thing."

Region 16 Announces New Manager

William Stuflick was recently announced as the new Regional Manager for IWD Region 16 which includes Louisa, Henry, Des Moines and Lee counties.

Stuflick joined IWD as a disabled veteran outreach program specialist and disability navigator. Over the past two years, he has developed several innovative community-based services and programs. His region was awarded veteran's service grants in 2008 and 2009 recognizing outstanding services to Iowa veterans.

IWD Assists Ex-offenders in the Work Search Process

Iowa Workforce Development works with offenders to find gainful employment after being released. A workforce advisor was recently added to the staff at the Newton Correctional Facility whose primary goal is to network with employers to address issues they may have in hiring ex-offenders.

Part of that assistance is having offenders take the National Career Readiness Certification tests. These tests are required by many employers and trade union apprenticeships. Having these tests taken prior to

release provides offender with another tool to demonstrate their competence in the work place and saves employers money from having to administer these tests. The NCRC tests measures skills in three areas: math, reading and information gathering. If sufficient scores are obtained, offender will receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate. To date, 32 offenders have been tested resulting in nine gold, 12 silver and 12 bronze certificates being given.

Other assistance that offenders is provided to all offenders is the Work

Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Federal Bonding information. WOTC provides employers who meet certain criteria with financial incentives to hire ex-offenders.

The Federal Bonding program provides employers with insurance that protects them against financial loss due to ex-offender theft. This bonding is at no cost to the employer for the first six months.

Offenders are also offered work readiness classes that emphasize job applications, resume writing, interviewing skills and effectively addressing the criminal history

issue. These offenders are entered into the IWD work search database that can be accessed at any IWD office after release.

Offenders are also provided with one-on-one consultations with a workforce advisor to discuss employment options and allows them to view on-line job openings. This allows ex-offenders to more effectively compete in the job market.

Davenport Workforce office named “Iowa’s Champion Employer 2009”

The Davenport Workforce Development Center has been nominated in recognition for providing older workers with job opportunities in a senior-friendly workplace. They were selected from employers in a 17-county area.

One employer will be recognized as Iowa’s Champion Employer and will be considered with nominations from 30 states to be named as the

Experience Works 2009 Champion Employer in Washington, D.C.

Other services offered through Experience Works in partnership with Iowa Workforce include assisting elderly job seekers by providing wages while attending classes, and community service on-the-job training assignments, referrals to job openings, job coaching and a variety of supportive services.



Employee News

New Hires/Temporary Employees

Devin Ackerson	Joshua Fenceroy	Blaine Raymond
Donald Adams	Shamar Foy	Holly Robertson
Frisco Baccam	Debra Fox	Melissa Rogers
Michelle Bailey	Kasey Freidrichsen	Nick Russell
Bradley Banks	Michelle Garrett	Michelle Saddoris
Angel Bosch	Joshua Geigle	Devonte Scott
Faheem Boutte	Joseph Glasgow	Ashley Stephens
Darreus Caston	Casey Hearn	Lisa Stielow
Shirley Clayton	Kendall Holland	Sherry Tate
Karen Cogan	Skyler Ingram	Thomas Tavegia
Jamie Conrad	Afiya Jones	Thomas Throntueit
Matthew Crawford	Ashlee Johnson	Jessica Vega-Arguela
Anthony Davy	Carla Loverink	Vu Vo
Terry Degner	Bertice Maharas	Ryan West
Michael Donlin	Gerard O'Reilly	Tiyasha Wilson
Angela Duffey	Andrew Petersen	Kathie Wolfe
Donald Eldridge	Matthew Potter	Janelle Woods
Renaldo Ellis	Roger Powell	Jacori Wright
Anthony Evans	Taylor Preston	William Zinn

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 or 515-281-5407.

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Governor

Elisabeth Buck
Director

Kerry Koonce
Communications Director

Mark French
Web Master

Kathryn Hommer
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Printing Staff
Iowa Workforce Development Print Shop

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

Anniversaries

5 Years

Erich Grubert
Henry Kyne
Joy Milligan

10 Years

Kennan Arp
Sherman Isaac
Paula Nissen
Peggy Vial

15 Years

Lynette Dietz
Wendy Gerrish
Dennis Jarrett
Dennis Lindsay
Rebecca Peters
Dora Siems
Judith Wobbema
Laurie Whitmore

20 Years

Mila Baier

25 Years

Robin Bartelt
Jean Foshier
Jeff Griffin

30 Years

Kristine Bratteig
Jane Connor
Connie Johnson

35 Years

Steven Beasley
Joann Goode
Roberta Lewis

40+ Years

Karen Von Behren
Mary Jane Lavender

Promotions/ Transfers

Rosemary Aden
Jennifer Andreade
Shawn Holman
James Morris

Retirements

Dianne Boggess
Mayda Rasing
William Vinson

