

Iowa Workforce Monthly

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Iowa Workers' Compensation Ranked #1 in the Nation

The 2009 State Report Card for Workers' Compensation ranks Iowa as the most effective system in the nation. The rankings are distributed annually by the Work-Loss Data Institute.

"Iowa is consistently recognized as having a fair and balanced system," indicated Iowa's Workers' Compensation Commissioner Christopher J. Godfrey. "We are committed to providing impartial assistance in education, compliance and adjudication to both businesses and workers across the state."

The 2009 rankings were derived by scoring each state on five outcome measures: incidence rates, cases missing work, median disability duration, delayed

recovery rate and a key condition of low back strain.

The Work-Loss Data Institute utilizes data provided through the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. By using standardized federal data, the Institute is able to control for data variations.

"Iowa consistently ranks among the states as having one of the lowest premium rates for Iowa employers and as having one of the highest compensation rates for pay out to workers" stated Commissioner Godfrey. "The combination of all of the factors makes Iowa a great place for business growth and provides a valuable safety net for injured workers."



IowaWorks TV Show Partnership

Iowa Workforce Development is working with Des Moines Area Community College to host a TV Show called "Iowa Works." Rob Denson, President of DMACC and Elisabeth Buck, Director of IWD will be hosting the new show.

The show will be following five real Iowans as they navigate the job search process. Each will focus on a different element of the process.

Tune in to KCWI on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am to learn valuable tips and techniques on everything from identifying skill sets to writing a résumé and preparing for an interview.

If you would like more information about the steps the panelists are taking or about the show, visit www.iowaworkforce.org/iowaworkstv or e-mail at iowaworkstv@iwd.iowa.gov.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

Welcome to another edition of the Iowa Workforce Monthly Newsletter. I hope you will take a few minutes to read about what we have to share.

First, I would like to congratulate everyone in the Workers' Compensation for being ranked #1 in the nation. It takes a lot of teamwork to be effective and get things done. Way to go on a job well done.

On September 6th, I will be hosting a new TV show on KCWI called IowaWorks. Rob Denson, president of DMACC will also be hosting with me. I'm very excited about this opportunity and hope you will enjoy watching. We will be sharing many tips and strategies that Iowans can use for their employment search. It will be airing for the next 13 weeks. I hope you will tune in and let us know what you think.

Also included in this issue is information about being prepared in the case of an emergency. You never know when a disaster is going to strike and it never hurts to have a plan in place. If you would like more information, visit www.bereadyiowa.org.

Shoes for Veterans Campaign

The Shoes for Veterans campaign began following a visit to a homeless shelter in the Quad Cities.

Many veterans and homeless individuals were in need of better shoes to wear than what they had. The initial request was only for shoes but, due to demand, grew to include clothes and winter apparel.

Donations collected are taken to "Bridging the Gap," which is the Homeless Stand Down that we hold every year in September at the Quad City Expo Center. At Stand Down, veterans are provided with haircuts, hearing tests, medical exams and also meet with various agencies. For more information, contact Craig Norris at (563) 445-3219.

U.S. Labor Secretary visits Iowa in July

U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis visited Iowa at the end of July. Secretary Solis' visit was hosted by Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Secretary Solis used her visit to announce an emergency grant for displaced RR Donnelly workers and another grant to help West Union workers where H&H Foodservice Distribution recently closed.

The grants are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and are designed to provide additional services to dislocated workers.



From left: Director Elisabeth Buck, Secretary Solis, Deputy Director Joseph Walsh, Commissioner David Neil

Iowa Workforce Development requests a National Emergency Grant when a layoff or plant closing affects a large number of workers. The NEG will provide extra funds to help the community, economic

development and job training services. New career training will focus on transitioning workers into high-demand occupations.

Did you know....

of the **17 offenders** released from Mitchellville Correctional Facility in **May, June and July of 2009, 13 left with employment opportunities.**

Great success for the ex-offender program!

Tips to be prepared in the event of an emergency

Are You Prepared?

An emergency – be it a flood, tornado, winter storm or power outage – can occur quickly and without warning. Although emergencies cannot be prevented, there are some simple things you can do now to be better prepared: assemble an emergency supply kit, create a family communication plan, make plans for your pets, and address special needs. For more information, visit www.ready.gov or www.bereadyiowa.org

When You are Ready, Iowa is ready

Last year taught us that

disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. From the tornados that decimated Parkersburg and surrounding communities, to rising flood waters which caused the evacuation of over 35,000 Iowans, the summer of 2008 will go down as Iowa's biggest disaster. Although we don't know when the next disaster will strike, we do know emergencies will happen. It is time to be ready and here are some simple steps to take.

1. Make a plan

- Talk with your household members about the primary dangers you face – fire, severe weather, and flooding are major disasters

in Iowa. Go over two ways to get out of your house and identify an outside meeting place. In the case of severe weather, be sure everyone knows the safe room for your home.

- Plan for your pets. Be ready to take them with you and prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities and pet friendly hotels. Most public shelters do not accommodate pets.
- Think of any special needs you might have including medicines.
- Establish an out-of-town relative or close friend who can serve as a

communication point if your family is scattered.

2. Make a kit

- Have enough water – one gallon per day per person – and food to sustain yourself for at least three days.
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Unique family needs such as prescription medicines, infant formula or diapers

For more tips go to www.bereadyiowa.org.

Be ready and you'll help Iowa be ready.

Southwest Iowa ECI & IWD to hold two valuable training sessions

The Southwest Iowa Employers' Council & Iowa Workforce Development in conjunction with the Iowa Committee for ESGR will present two valuable training sessions for businesses.

All employers, human resource personnel, recruiters, attorneys, paralegals, business owners & managers are invited to attend.

**Wed. September 16,
9:00 am to 1:30 pm**

**Iowa Western Comm. College,
2700 College Rd,
Looft Hall Rm 006,
Council Bluffs, IA**

Training sessions offered:
**EEOC Grab-bag of EEO Topics
and Issues for Employers**

**ESGR: Building Relationships
between Employers and
Today's Military**

There is no registration fee to attend; lunch will be provided at no cost courtesy of ESGR but pre-registration is required by Friday, Sept. 11th to Carol Morgan, (712) 242-2131 or visit www.iowaworkforce.org. Seating is limited to 50 attendees. This program has

been approved for 4.0 (General) recertification credit hours towards PHR, SPHR and GPHR recertification through the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI) and a certificate will be provided at the training session.



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. We recently integrated two of our offices to improve the service we provide to our customers. Here are a few of the comments we have received:

- "I received help learning what type of skills I have. I will go back online when I get home and continue with information from "I Have a Plan Iowa". Everyone was extremely helpful and knowledgeable today and I

truly appreciate it."
- "Everyone was very polite, pleasant and helpful. Everything I needed help with was done promptly. Heather was very pleasant and did a good job getting me started."

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

1000 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(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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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.

Employee News

New Hires/Temporary Employees

Shannell Allen	Joshua Good	Juan Roa-Carvajal
Joni Benson	Sandra Green	Terri Rubner
Denise Cagley-Jefferson	Keith Hawkins	Velma Sallis
Holly Channon	Elvira Heitritter	Roxanne Smith
O. Nicholas Cicero	Angela Hill	Cary Stowe
Gregory Clark	Aaron Hoard	Tracy Starr
Janet Clark	Christina Hughes	Dongyan Wang
Aparna Davuluri	Paula Keyes	Douglas Weeks
Janice Dolan	Scott Mather	Ruth Westergard
Patricia Downing	Kristine Moehr	
Boyd Dugan	Daniel Moon	
Sharon Gaulke-Lilly	Marjon Payvandi	
Charles Gifford	Rebecca Ramirez	

Promotions/ Transfers

Renee Anderson
Katie Clark
Maria Cortez
Judith Hebestreit
Susan Johannsen
Barbara Lair
Carla Loverink
Nancie Petty
Mary Piagentini
Shanlyn Seivert
Cathy Schafer
William Stuflick
Stephanie Windust
Tina Woods

Anniversaries

5 Years

Sharon Anderson
Dean East

10 Years

Susan Ackerman
Linda Svoboda

15 Years

Linda Valdez

20 Years

Deborah Adams
Judy Mason

25 Years

Gary Beer
Larry Lancaster
Christy Roush

30-35 Years

Kim Rieger
Susan Boxx
William Brookhart
Martha Wilson
Carl Martin
Lynn Fitzgibbon
Gary Batten
Jane Becker

40+ Years

Kay Christiansen
Marcia Mottinger

Retirements

Dale Morris
William Vinson
Janet Moen
Marion Wes Piner