

Iowa Workforce Monthly



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IWD Encourages Iowans to use IowaJobs.org

Whether you're looking for a job or seeking to hire qualified applicants, Iowa Workforce Development encourages Iowans to begin their search with IowaJobs.org.

"By using IowaJobs.org, employers and job seekers can take advantage of the many services we provide," said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "IowaJobs.org offers something for everyone statewide."

At any given time, over 13,000 jobs are posted. Many of Iowa's top employers have their job openings automatically added to IowaJobs.org directly from their

web sites. This ensures that only the most current jobs are posted.

Employers can take advantage of the many screening options available to guarantee only qualified applicants are submitted. They can also save time by having Iowa Workforce Development staff manage their job postings. In addition, employers can find access to labor market information along with other employment data.

To learn more about how IowaJobs.org can help, contact the Iowa Workforce Development at (800) JOB-IOWA.

Statewide Unemployment Data

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 6.8 percent in August, a level not experienced since July 1986, when the state's jobless rate was also 6.8 percent. The August unemployment rate compared with 6.5 percent for July, and 4.2 percent for August 2008. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 9.7 percent in August from 9.4 percent in July, and 6.2 percent one year ago.

"Iowa's payroll losses moderated substantially in August, a sign that the most

severe part of the decline is behind us," said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "However, the state's unemployment rate is likely to remain high into 2010, despite an optimistic forecast of improving economic conditions in the second half of this year."

Iowa's pool of unemployed workers grew to 114,000 in August from 108,300 in July. The current estimate is 43,900 higher than the year ago count of 70,100.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

Thank you for joining us for another edition of the Iowa Workforce Monthly Newsletter. I trust you find the information shared beneficial.

In this issue, we have some great information regarding our Des Moines Veterans Team. Kate Bearce, Veteran Representative, shared a story with us about a veteran that she helped. His story

was so inspirational that we wanted to share it with you. Also, featured is a painting that was recently added to the VA Hospital Mental Health Unit. The Veterans Team purchased the painting with incentive money that was given to them earlier this year for exceptional performance.

I'm proud to include information about our

Creston Workforce Center staff that raised money for a local food pantry after they heard that it was almost out of food. After teaming up with the Creston Wal-Mart, they were able to deliver over \$1,150 worth of food. Good job Creston!

Creston office donates to local Food Pantry

After learning the local food pantry was almost out of food, the staff at the Creston Workforce Center decided to team together and collect food to donate.

The contributions resulted in almost \$1,150 dollars worth of food being donated by IWD and the Creston Wal-Mart.

Items that were donated included: 32 bags of chicken breasts, 20 packages of hot dogs, 60 pounds of ground beef, and 35 pounds of ground turkey. And that was just the meat. There were cases of macaroni and cheese, soups, canned fruit, boxes of pasta, cases of sauces.....and the list goes on and on.



"Each day we see people who are unemployed and struggling," said Todd Spencer, Creston Manager. "And while we have been putting forth great effort to help as many people gain employment as possible, we know that it will never be enough to help everyone. I

am glad that I work with a group of people that cares enough to give some extra effort."

The staff at the food pantry was grateful to receive the contributions so they could help the people that need it. Good job Creston!

Kossuth Area ECI Training Session

The Kossuth Area Employers Council (ECI) will host a training session for businesses on "Writing Employee Handbooks and Job Descriptions" on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. The session will be held at Iowa Lakes Community College in Algona, Iowa. Featured speakers will be Barbara Tapscott, IWD Employment Attorney and Craig Immerfall, IWD Business Services.

In today's increasingly regulated business environment, it is more important than ever for companies to have clear and comprehensive written policies aimed at preventing employment practices liability claims.

For more information, contact Paula Seely at seelyp@mercyhealth.com or (515) 295-4602.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Iowa Workforce Development is reminding Iowans that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The goal is to recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities and to encourage all citizens to ensure equal opportunity in the workforce.

Millions of Americans live with disabilities and many other Americans will become disabled at some point in their lives. Iowa is working to advance greater freedoms at work, in schools and throughout communities.

For more information, visit www.iowaworkforce.org/access or contact Iowa Workforce Development at (800) 562-4692.

Veteran Success Story: Why I'm glad I met Veteran Paul Lizotte

This story was submitted by Veteran Representative Kate Bearce. She was moved after working to help a veteran.

I started working in July 2008. During the first month of my employment, I was overwhelmed by the amount of information to learn, especially about working with people who were unemployed and, in some cases, quite desperate. I believe had I not met Paul Lizotte, I would be that much poorer, both in spirit and in abilities to help other Veterans.

Paul is a Vietnam-era Veteran who served for 18 months in-country and saw things that changed him forever. He visited Iowa Workforce on July 29, 2008 asking for a wage verification sheet so he could

receive some rent assistance from Polk County Veterans Affairs. Since Paul did not own a car, nor could he afford to ride the city busses, he walked the 4 miles to our office. Paul explained that his current living situation was no longer tolerable and that he was in fear for his safety. He also explained that winter was coming and if he didn't find anything, he would have to live in a tent on the river banks again this winter. He dreaded the idea of freezing to death.

Paul was eligible to apply for a VA pension, Social Security Disability, and perhaps a service-connected disability from the VA. Paul had tried to file for each of these things in the past but had become overwhelmed by all the

paperwork he was required to interpret and complete.

Paul attended every appointment, dug up every piece of paper and answered every nosy question I asked. Through it all, Paul never once wanted to accept a government hand-out. He was adamant about not being a burden to society.

Paul recently received his VA pension (after 14 months of waiting) and has plans for his future. He wants to re-connect to estranged family members; he wants to get his teeth fixed; and in the true nature of his gratitude, he wants to help other Veterans who struggle with the same issues he did.

Now that Paul is earning a pension, and his basic needs are being met, he has decided to volunteer two days

a week in the same Goodwill program that helped him.

I have never been so humbled as when I stood in Paul's presence the day he brought his check in to show me. Paul is a true hero that swallowed his pride, dealt with the government and kept trying to move his life in a positive direction. Paul is tickled with his monthly pension check which can now provide him with food, shelter and a little leisure. Paul is grateful for an amount that would barely cover my minimum monthly expenses.

I look at Paul's success and the changes he has made in his own life and attitude and know that I would never have the inner strength to persevere through the challenges he has.

New Painting hangs at the VA Hospital New Mental Health Unit

This painting is in a new mental health unit at the VA Hospital in Des Moines. It was specifically designed to be calming and soothing to vets with serious problems.

The intent of the painting is to give inspiration, hope and joy to those who view it.

The vets team paid for the project with part of incentive funds awarded them earlier this year for exceptional performance.

The large 9' x 5' (45 sq. ft.) painting hangs in the unit's dayroom.



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

- Sheila Westfall, Human Resource Assistant for ACH Food Companies,

sent a thank you note to **Pam Ostrem**, Des Moines, and the **Recruitment and Placement team** at the Des Moines Workforce Center. "I know it is a tremendous in flux of people when we open positions and all I've heard are nothing but compliments

from applicants who have applied," said Westfall. - Here is another compliment received regarding the benefits of the Des Moines Workforce Center recent integration. "I learned how to get involved, to benefit my future

job skills. I was helped and treated with professional assistance."

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.

Chet Culver
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.

Employee News

New Hires/Temporary Employees

Luis Arellanes

Amanda Blanchard

Johnen Carr

Emily Chafa

Ryan Dostal

Lainda Drake

Tracey Goodrich

Steven Heinle

Alan Lewis

James Madden

Matthew Mardesen

Rebecca Marshall

Debra Mickles

Russell Munsinger

Andrew Schirman

Heather Warren

Anniversaries

5 Years

Kelly Loftus

Brenda Pappas

Justin Willier

10 Years

Brenda Dodge

15 Years

Karen Francis

Dennis Thompson

Kathleen Uehling

20 Years

Lori Arandus

25 Years

Lynette Donner

Luther Peddy

Larry Walshire

30 Years

Karen Nelson

Lurene Swalve

35 Years

Lucinda Calvert

Promotions/ Transfers

Bethany Clark

Adam McElhenny

Julie Little

Ann Morris

Lynn Nulle

Jeanne Patten

Maria Runde

Joseph Sawyer

Lillie Simpson

Dennis Thompson

Michelle Thomas

Corey Watt

Retirements

Lynn Fitzgibbon

J. Lee Luther

Cindy Stroud

