

Iowa Workforce Monthly



Highlights:

- On Wednesday, April 7th, the Marshalltown Workforce Center and the local New Iowan Center participated in the regional Central Iowa Job Fair.....pg. 2
- The Burlington Workforce Center had a successful year offering Iowans free income tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.....pg. 2
- The New Iowan Center and the Muscatine Workforce Center will be holding a Spring Career Fair on Thursday, May 20thpg. 2
- Iowans gathered Wednesday, April 28, to pay tribute and to reflect upon the lives of the Iowa workers who lost their lives in 2009 while at work.....pg. 3

Inside this Issue:

- Director’s Message.....pg. 2
- Employee Anniversaries.....pg. 4
- Employee Retirements.....pg. 4
- Employee Acknowledgements.....pg. 4



IWD, Partners launch new Pathways to Health Care Careers Website

Pathways to Health Care Careers is a unique project designed to recruit, screen and provide training and support services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) refugees and immigrants in Iowa to help them pursue careers, with progression, in the health care industry. IWD recently launched a website – <http://www.iowapathways.org/> – to help provide more information, as well as provide an opportunity for online registration.

Aiming to serve nearly 300 individuals between fall 2010 and fall 2012, this project is a partnership effort between Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services, Mercy College of Health Sciences and a

number of employer partners. “We are pleased to be partnering with the other organizations to provide such a wonderful opportunity to Iowa’s refugees and immigrants,” said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. “Health care is one of Iowa’s fastest growing industries and this project will help us bring a more diverse base to that industry.”

This innovative approach aims to meet the staffing needs of the Iowa health care sector, while simultaneously opening a high-potential career path to the state’s newest Iowans. Funding for this project is provided by a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Contest to Name New Workshops

As we move further into the integration process, IWD is looking into updating and reorganizing the current classes that are offered in our centers statewide. Currently called Iowa Advantage, we are asking for your help to identify a new brand name for the training workshops that will be offered.

The new workshops, though still in development, are likely to center around focused topics such as Résumé Development, Interviewing Techniques, Networking and Social Media, and more. They will be designed to be independent training and Iowans can participate in one or all of them - completely

free. We will be accepting brand name entries through June 11th.

A few rules include:

- The name should include Iowa in the title
- The acronym of the title should be appropriate
- Contest is open to all, including IWD employees
- You may enter as many submissions as you would like
- Submissions should be sent via e-mail, Subject: Naming Contest to iwdcommunications@iwd.iowa.gov

If you have any questions, please send them to iwdcommunications@iwd.iowa.gov.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

With the start of May, spring is now out in full force. It's a welcome change after the winter we had.

It has been a busy month with a lot of events taking place. From career fairs to the Workers' Memorial Ceremony, we hope you'll take a minute to learn more about all these events.

IWD recently launched a website to promote a

special grant designed to help Iowa's refugees enter the health care industry. Health care is one of Iowa's largest and fastest growing industries. We are pleased to be able to partner with the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services, Mercy College of Health Sciences and multiple employer partners.

On April 28th, we paused a moment to honor Iowa's fallen workers. Governor

Culver participated in the memorial ceremony, which was complete with a 21-gun salute and TAPS. While the number of fallen workers has decreased in recent years, even one death is too many. Iowa OSHA continues to work hard to promote workplace safety across Iowa.

Burlington Workforce Center offered Iowans free Income tax assistance

The Burlington Workforce Center had a successful year offering Iowans free income tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. In total, the office helped more than 95 Iowans file taxes, which resulted in a total amount of customer refunds of \$135,037.

Below is a brief report from Regional Manager William Stufflick.

"The numbers did not come easy and our success can be attributed to some very hard work from Becky Marshall, Deb Fox and other support staff members. They overcame logistic and resource challenges to ensure our VITA program was a resounding success. We are optimistic next year will be an even bigger success."

Marshalltown Workforce Center and New Iowan Center participate in Central Iowa Job Fair

On Wednesday, April 7th, the Marshalltown Workforce Center and the local New Iowan Center participated in the regional Central Iowa Job Fair.

Attendees were able to meet with over 50 employers that participated in the event. IWD provided two laptops during the event that were available for attendees to conduct a job search online. In addition, IWD also provided attendees with information on interviewing techniques and information on all the services available our workforce centers statewide.

The New Iowan Center had a booth to showcase their services and provide information on the U.S. Census.



Muscatine area Spring Career Fair offered

The New Iowan Center and the Muscatine Workforce Center will be holding a Spring Career Fair on Thursday, May 20th. The event is free and open to the public. In addition to featuring local employers, two job search workshops will be held. Topics include: How to Write a Masterpiece Résumé and Successful Interviewing Techniques.

May 20th – 9 am - 3 p.m.
Holiday Inn Harvest Room,
Hwys 61 & 38N, Muscatine

Dress properly, bring résumés and be ready to meet your future employer. For more information, call (563) 264-6014.

Iowans honor fallen workers during the Annual Workers' Memorial Day ceremony

Iowans gathered Wednesday, April 28, to pay tribute and to reflect upon the lives of the Iowa workers who lost their lives in 2009 while at work. Fallen workers were remembered at a Workers' Memorial Day ceremony held at Iowa Workforce Development in Des Moines.

"Workers' Memorial Day allows us to pay tribute to those individuals we lost this past year in workplace accidents, and it reminds us all that workplace safety must play a priority in our daily lives," indicated Iowa Labor Commissioner David Neil.

Every year the Iowa Division of Labor, Iowa OSHA, South Central Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO and state and local dignitaries gather to honor those who lost their lives while at work and to renew their commitment to healthy and safe workplaces throughout Iowa. Family and friends of the deceased are invited to attend this annual ceremony. A wooden cross is made for each of the deceased and families are encouraged to take their respective cross with them upon the conclusion of the ceremony.

During calendar year 2009, 48 Iowans died from OSHA related injuries in the workplace. Additionally, untold numbers of Iowans die each year from the long-term effects of toxic exposures in the workplace.

Governor Chet Culver and Labor Commissioner David Neil were joined by representatives of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and from numerous labor organizations and local clergy in remembering Iowa's deceased workers.



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. Here are a few noteworthy comments we've received:
– Jay Ghazali sent in a note thanking **Jolene Ridgway, Des Moines** and **Kasey**

Friedrichsen, Des Moines, for a wonderful experience. "They were friendly, helpful, professional and efficient. People like myself who were unfortunate to lose their jobs have had to deal with humiliation and setback. It is very reassuring and comforting to be treated with such dignity, respect and understanding from staff like Jolene and Kasey." Good

job Jolene and Kasey!

– Jeanette Sheetz sent in a note of thanks to

Jennifer Vogt, Des Moines,
Jan Mertz,

Des Moines and **Darlene Vick, Des Moines.** "These ladies have done an outstanding job of assisting me. They were kind, patient and efficient! Best customer service I have received!" Keep up the good work Jennifer, Jan and Darlene.

– Ed Couto sent in a letter to thank **Galit Freylick, Kelly Friedrichs and Michelle Bailey, all of Des Moines.** "I sincerely appreciate all the time you spent reviewing my career goals and recommending strategies for achieving them. It is a great feeling just knowing there is support on your side for this adventure. My biggest regret is not taking advantage of some of the offered services earlier in my job search." Way to go Galit, Kelly and Michelle.

– Bonnie Knight would like to thank **Bill Zinn, Spencer,** for being exceptionally kind and pleasant. "He has made my experiences with job loss

and the requirements that go with seeking unemployment assistance that much easier to navigate."

– **Adam McElhenney, Des Moines,** received a compliment from Debra Anderson. He took the time to help Debra with a new account and when she couldn't open the application, he faxed her a copy. "I definitely appreciated Adam's helpfulness." Great customer service Adam!

– **Deb Babb and Missy Kain, Des Moines,** received a note of thanks from Tami Kelchen, for helping to make Workers' Memorial Day special for her family. Thank you Deb and Missy!

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

To read past editions, visit
www.iowaworkforce.org/director/

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

Employee News

New Hires

Jennifer Cremer
Mark Giddings
Jeffrey Heiden
Ryan Moses
Ronn Newby
Chelsea Peno
Jeffery Showers
Teresa Thomason
Spomenka Tudovic
Stephanie Underwood
Amy White

Anniversaries

10 Years
Anieta O'Hair
15 Years
Robert Loter
35 Years
Diana Thompson

Retirements

Marceine Hyche
Leona Kreamer
Beth McCartan
Juanita Rubio

Promotions/Transfers

Boyd Dugan O.N. Cicero
Charles Gifford Lillie Simpson
Carie O'Brien Martha Suarez-DeYoung