



New Faces Take Control Behind "Mission: Employable" Microphones



Kathy Leggett and Ben Oldach

The voices may be different, but the mission for Iowa Workforce Development's *Mission: Employable* podcast remains the same – educating Iowans about all the valuable resources and innovative ideas out there for connecting employers with skilled Iowa workers.

“We’re definitely having fun with it,” said Kathy Leggett, who joined Ben Oldach as co-host of the podcast in January. “I would like for people every time they listen to take at least one thing away that is useful to them.”

IWD Deputy Director Ryan West launched the *Mission: Employable* podcast roughly two years ago to give Iowans a broader window into the world of workforce. It quickly became the gold standard for government podcasts involving any aspect of workforce.

Oldach and Leggett took over at the beginning of 2023, more than 150 episodes and 35,000 downloads later, after increased administrative duties pulled West away from the microphone.

“The best thing about this type of podcast is that it is universal in terms of helping Iowans or even enticing folks to move to Iowa,” West said. “There is no shortage of topics to help businesses and job seekers get connected with opportunities and ideas. Ben and Kathy are doing a fantastic job of taking the show to the next level.”

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

Iowa Supports Veterans & Families



The Iowa Legislature celebrated Veterans Day at the Capitol earlier this year. That provided a chance for us to show you all the ways Iowa values our men and women in uniform. Click the image above to [watch our video](#).

Iowa Wins National Award for RCM Program

The American Institute of Full Employment (AIFE) recently named Iowa Workforce Development as the winner of its 2022 *Full Employment Award*.

The award is given each year to one or more states or individuals demonstrating a commitment to excellence in helping job seekers become reemployed.

In issuing the award, AIFE noted that states across the country had experienced historic labor shortages following COVID-19 while labor force participation remained low. Iowa responded to this urgent need for workers by launching its Reemployment Case Management program in January 2022.

AIFE noted that while 31 percent of U.S. unemployment claims led to the exhaustion of benefits in Q3 2022,



State Grants Total \$357,470 for New Language Learners

Eleven Iowa employers will receive a total of \$357,470 to support meaningful programs aimed at reducing language barriers within Iowa's workforce.

The grants, which were announced by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds earlier this month, are projected to support 465 program participants by helping their companies increase dual language instruction, expand communication with customers, and boost recruitment and retention efforts with new staff.

The new funding will help sponsor language programs in Spanish, English, and Mandarin. Employers were required to provide plans for sustaining each language program beyond the grant. Courses were encouraged to be conducted onsite or include multiple options for flexible transportation off-site.

"Over the last two years, Iowa has put a significant focus on identifying remaining workforce barriers and overcoming them with innovative solutions," said Gov. Reynolds. "I applaud the leadership of today's awardees. These state grants are about tackling language barriers so we can help businesses better communicate with employees, serve more of their customers, and expand Iowa's workforce into new populations."

The money will go to:

- ALPLA, Inc., Iowa City
- A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co., Dubuque

Iowa was able to reduce the percentage of its claimants who exhausted their unemployment benefits to 13.7 percent, the second lowest in the nation.

“It’s encouraging to see leading states like Iowa optimize their policies and processes and implement effective approaches to reemploy UI claimants and stabilize the economy,” said AIFE President John Courtney.

For more information, visit the [AIFE website](#).

- Catalyst Project Management, Iowa City
- Country Maid, West Bend
- Heritage Building Maintenance, Des Moines
- Interstates, Sioux Center
- Ironwood 53 Design and Build, Rock Valley
- Neumann Monson, Iowa City
- New Hope Village, Inc., Carroll
- Shearer's Foods, Burlington
- VGM Group, Waterloo

For more information on the grant, [visit this link](#).

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Learn by Listening



More than 35,000 downloads so far by listeners around the world. Hosts Ben Oldach and Kathy Leggett will introduce you to a host of workforce programs and people making a difference.

[Click to download.](#)

IWD Creates New Office to Increase Coordination of Veterans Services



Iowa Workforce Development expects to streamline and improve coordination of job services for veterans after the creation of a new office that is bringing most veteran-related programs under the same leadership.

IWD's new Office of Veteran Workforce Services will be led by Jamie Norton (left), who previously oversaw veteran-related programs at IowaWORKS job centers.

Norton said the new structure for the first time will have 16 Veteran Career Planners at IowaWORKS reporting to the same person instead of individual job center managers. They also will be working more closely with the five Career Planners who had been doing similar work through the Home Base Iowa program. At the same time, the HBI team will be shifting some of its focus to include more outreach duties, such as attending more out-of-state career fairs and spending more time with Iowa communities to educate them about HBI.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

Upcoming Events / Opportunities

MARCH VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS				
Workshop	Facilitator	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Public Speaking Skills	Public Speaking Skills	Public Speaking Skills	Public Speaking Skills	Public Speaking Skills
Public Interview Prep	Public Interview Prep	Public Interview Prep	Public Interview Prep	Public Interview Prep
Public Resume Writing	Public Resume Writing	Public Resume Writing	Public Resume Writing	Public Resume Writing
Public Job Search	Public Job Search	Public Job Search	Public Job Search	Public Job Search
Public Career Planning	Public Career Planning	Public Career Planning	Public Career Planning	Public Career Planning

GENERAL MILLS - BLUE BUFFALO (INDEPENDENCE, IA)

Do you have the right ingredients? Join the Herd!

WE ARE HIRING! Visit us at IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue, Waterloo

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 – 11AM TO 2PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 – 11AM TO 2PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 – 11AM TO 2PM

WALK-INS WELCOME OR APPLY EARLY FOR A SCHEDULED INTERVIEW TIME

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE HERD:

- Day 1 medical, dental, & vision benefits
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- 401k matching
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- And much more!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Production Operator - \$19.75/hour
- #1000 Sign-On Bonus
- Additional \$3.50/hour for 2nd Shift
- Additional \$1.50/hour for 3rd Shift

HOW TO APPLY:

- Apply at careers.generalmills.com
- Text "openings" to 87215
- Print and tap your camera at QR Code

8 HOUR SCHEDULES:

- 1st Shift: 6am-2:30pm
- 2nd Shift: 3pm-10:30pm
- 3rd Shift: 10pm-6:30am

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RED OAK, IA

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REQUIREMENTS:

- Stable work history
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WELDERS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Experience using hand tools, grinder, torches, etc
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More information at www.iowaworks.gov

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www.iowaworks.com

TO REGISTER:
Sign in or call to talk to a Career Planner
or
Register through your iowaWORKS account

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2023
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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Would you or someone you know be a GREAT in-home child care provider?

Join us for this FREE information session and find out more about child care in Iowa!

Tuesday, March 21st
10:00-11:00 AM

Join Child Care Resources & Referral (CCR&R) staff to discuss:

- Finding quality child care
- Registration
- Licensing
- Child care fees
- Starting your own child care business

and how CCR&R can support you!

Scan to register

Quality child care is essential for healthy families and communities.

