

## IVRS Helps Build Business after Injury



When the collapse came, Jack Quick thought his wife was having a stroke.

“I couldn’t even hold a coffee cup,” June Quick recalled last month. “I just felt like spaghetti in my whole body.”

By the time she was wheeled into surgery, Quick was paralyzed, the apparent victim of a neck injury that shattered during treatment, sparking damage to her brain and spinal cord. Over the next seven months, a long line of occupational, physical, and speech therapists paraded through the Quick home to help her relearn how to walk, talk, and even breathe. Roughly 18 months later, she still is weak – still gets headaches, still gets a little wobbly at times, still speaks differently and faces severe limits on how much she can lift.

But today, with the help of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) and partner/experts at the Drake University small business accelerator program, June Quick is learning something else: How to run her own company.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

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## VIDEO: State Fair Veterans Parade



You can never get too much of the Iowa State Fair. [Click the image above](#) to learn more about the IWD staff who walked in the Veterans Day parade this year and how IWD can help veterans.

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## Iowa Offers Assistance to Yellow Corp. Workers

Iowa Workforce Development, IowaWORKS, and Iowa Economic Development Authority staff reached out earlier this month to some of the estimated 30,000 workers (including several hundred in Iowa) who are impacted by the shutdown of Yellow Corp.

IowaWORKS hosted a webinar on September 6 to help affected workers understand the benefits of living and working in Iowa. The event included discussion of quality of life and available economic incentives.

Iowa Workforce Development and the state's IowaWORKS job centers provide a host of resources to help workers transition to a new career. These include:

- Dedicated Career Planners to help match individuals with the Iowa companies who need people.
- Job search, resume, and interviewing workshops (in-person and online)



## James Williams is New Administrator of IVRS

IWD is pleased to welcome James Williams, Ed.D., who will start work next month as the new Division Administrator overseeing Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Williams previously was CEO of Bloom Consulting in Round Rock, Texas – a firm that specializes in providing vocational services, evaluations, and training to individuals with disabilities, particularly those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Williams is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, an Advanced Certified Autism Specialist, and a certified Special Education Teacher. He describes himself as a “proud former recipient” of vocational rehabilitation services, with his own history going through the vocational rehabilitation process to pair with experience at state-level oversight. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Williams to serve as Vice Chair of the Texas State Rehabilitative Council in 2021.

“James is passionate about serving individuals with disabilities and believes strongly in the idea of helping everyone find meaningful employment,” said Beth

- person and online)
- Connections to special community incentives for relocating Veterans and their spouses.

Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. “He has worked extensively in the community and with community partners all over the country, so he is incredibly well-positioned to take the reins of VR here in the state of Iowa.”

Williams is scheduled to start on Oct. 1.

**For more information, visit our [Road Ahead website](#) or view a [video recording of the webinar](#).**

DOWNLOAD THE  
**IOWAWORKS  
APP!**

- Search local job listings
- Upload your resume
- Explore telework options
- Connect with IowaWORKS staff

**IowaWORKS**  
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

**www.IowaWORKS.gov**

The graphic features a smartphone displaying the IowaWORKS app interface, which includes the app's logo and a download button. The background is light gray with green and dark gray circular accents.

Apple App Store

Google Play

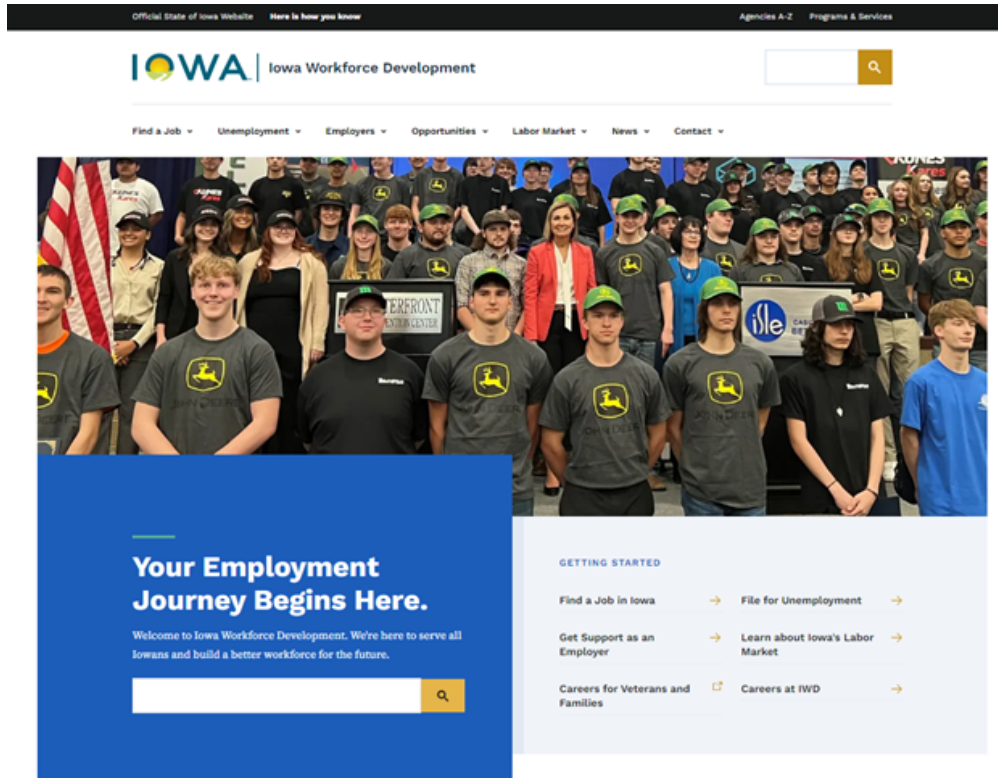
## Learn by Listening



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.](#)

# Coming Soon: New IWD Website



Iowa Workforce Development is in the middle of undergoing a cyberspace makeover.

Next month, we plan to launch a new website as part of a broader, statewide effort to simplify government offerings online and make it easier for Iowans to find what they need. The new site will feature new state branding and provide a simpler path to information on unemployment benefits, job search resources, and other information you've come to depend on from IWD.

It will look different, but it's really us. Any major pages you've bookmarked should redirect to their new counterparts, but feel free to contact [communications@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:communications@iwd.iowa.gov) if there's something you can't find after it's live.

The changeover will happen in October. Stay tuned.



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# Unemployment Insurance Payroll Tax To Remain at Lowest-Possible in 2024



Iowa Workforce Development and Governor Kim Reynolds announced in late August that the schedule of unemployment insurance rates used to tax Iowa employers will remain at the lowest possible level allowed by law for 2024.

This marks the second consecutive year at the current rates, and only the second time Iowa's rates have been at this level in a quarter-century.

"We have done everything possible to insulate Iowa employers from ongoing inflation and other rising costs," Reynolds said. "Our efforts have ensured that the tax burden for employers in Iowa will be the lowest possible rate for the second time in the last 25 years."

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

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## Upcoming Events / Opportunities

A colorful poster for a Title I Youth Polk County Info Session. At the top, a group of diverse young people is smiling. Below them, the text reads: "TITLE I YOUTH POLK COUNTY INFO SESSION EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 4:00 PM 1200 UNIVERSITY AVE STE 204, DES MOINES TALK TO A FUTURE CAREER PLANNER AND LEARN HOW TO BRIGHTEN YOUR FUTURE! WE OFFER ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAREER EXPLORATION GOAL SETTING INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS AND WORK EXPERIENCES RESUME BUILDING INTERVIEW PREP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND MORE!" At the bottom, it says "Iowa Workforce Development" and "IowaWORKS".

A poster for "Coffee and Camaraderie" featuring a silhouette of three people sitting on the ground in front of a large American flag. The text reads: "INVITING ALL WHO SERVED PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CAMARADERIE Second Thursday of Each Month | 9 a.m. Ottumwa Elks | 413 S. Iowa Avenue | Ottumwa Presented by Ottumwa County Veterans Affairs and Support Center" At the bottom, there are three stars.

A green poster for a "VIRTUAL EMPLOYER WORK BASED LEARNING FOCUS GROUP" on "SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2023 11:30 A.M.". The text includes: "The Muskegon Valley Workforce Development Association has developed in use of 30 work-based learning networks in the past 10 years... Your input regarding Work-Based Learning programs is important to us. This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas and help us have a substantial influence. Please contact your local Virtual Employer Focus Group by registering through the link provided below before September 28th. REGISTER HERE!" At the bottom, it says "Iowa Workforce Development".



Job and Resource Fair for English Language Learners

Thursday, September 21, 2023  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
DMACC Urban Campus, Building 7  
1144 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50314

