

Iowa Workforce Monthly

Highlights:

- Whether you're looking for a job or seeking to bolster your credentials, earning a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) gives you proof of your job skills....pg. 2
- Michelle Frey was laid off in 2003. She worked with the WIA program to research and look into careers that would suit her....pg. 2
- Currently, over 450 participants (laborers) are involved in the Emergency Public Jobs (EMJ) programpg. 3
- Established in 1999, the first two New Iowan Centers were opened in Muscatine and Sioux City, the eastern and western doors to Iowa....pg. 3
- We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. Read a few noteworthy comments we've received....pg. 4

Inside this Issue:

- Director's Message.....pg. 2
- Career & Community Resource Fair.....pg. 2
- Employee Anniversaries.....pg. 4
- Employee Retirements.....pg. 4
- Employee Acknowledgements.....pg. 4

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New Iowan Centers Anniversary

For 10 years, New Iowans Centers have been offering one-stop services to help deal with the multiple issues related to immigration and employment. Through the coordination of local, state and federal service providers, the centers provide a seamless service delivery system for new Iowans.

With 12 locations across Iowa, New Iowan Centers assist newcomers with a wide range of services that include community and employment information, language training or citizenship classes.

Businesses and communities

can benefit from the cultural diversity training, retention programming and relocation information that the center provides. New Iowan Centers also have the Rosetta Stone

language software to help with language training.

Jojo Bautista moved to Charles City, Iowa from the Philippines. He came to the New Iowan Center after having several miscellaneous

jobs in the area. Although Bautista had earned a computer science bachelor's degree in the Philippines and completed all the coursework for a master's degree as well,
(continued on pg. 3)



Jojo Bautista

Valuable Job Search Site: IowaJobs.org

Whether looking for a job or seeking to hire qualified applicants, IWD encourages Iowans to begin their search with IowaJobs.org.

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 screening options available to ensure only qualified applicants. 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. With thousands of internet views per day, IowaJobs.org can offer a unique pool of applicants that no one else can provide.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

Thank you for reading our second edition of Iowa Workforce Monthly. We trust you find this information helpful and educational. This issue will focus on programs that are offered by Iowa Workforce Development. You can also read about the Emergency public jobs program. With over 450 participants, this program is truly helping Iowans.

For the past year, Iowa Workforce Development has offered a pilot program called the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) at a few offices across the state. The CRC is something that can be used as a complement to a diploma and allows job seekers an extra advantage when applying for jobs.

This is also an added benefit for employers because they will know the specific strengths of the

candidates they hire. We have seen the benefits of this program and will be looking to expand this statewide in the coming year. Funding for this expansion has been proposed in the Governors FY2010 budget. For more information regarding CRC, you can read about it below or visit www.iowaworkforce.com.

Iowa's National Career Readiness Certificate Program

Whether you're looking for a job or seeking to bolster your credentials, earning a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) gives you proof of your job skills.

A CRC can be used across the country and is a complement to a diploma. It can also give you an advantage when applying for jobs.

Having high job skills means gaining access to higher-paying jobs. According to ACT research, occupations that require the lowest Applied Mathematics skill level usually pay beginning salaries of about \$16,000.

On the other hand, occupations that require the highest Applied Mathematics skill level typically pay beginning salaries of about \$30,000. Employers are willing to pay higher salaries for higher skill levels.

ACT WorkKeys tests for job readiness in the categories of Applied Mathematics, locating information and reading for information.

Differences in salaries across skill levels also occur for the other WorkKeys tests included in the certificate.

Iowa's National Career Readiness Certificate is awarded after you complete

a standardized test - ACT WorkKeys. You may earn a CRC in one of three levels based on your test performance:

- Bronze - signifies skills needed for 35% of jobs
- Silver - signifies skills needed for 65% of jobs
- Gold - signifies skills needed for 90% of jobs.

By earning Iowa's national CRC, you can demonstrate that you possess the key foundational job skills needed for virtually every job. This gives an advantage when applying for jobs.

Trade Act Success Story

Michelle Frey was laid off in 2003. She worked with the WIA program to research and look into career that would suit her. "Once I determined that I wanted to pursue nursing as a career, they were very helpful in setting up job shadows and course schedules."

After being transferred to the Trade program, Frey went on to earn an Associate of Arts Degree, a diploma in Practical Nursing and then an Associate Degree in Nursing, all from Southeastern Community College in Keokuk.

"The support and encouragement I received at SCC from faculty and students made me want to become an educator," said Frey.

With scholarship grants awarded for academic achievements, Frey attended the University of Iowa and graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the college of Nursing while working full time as an RN at Keokuk Area Hospital. Frey is currently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Iowa in Nursing Education.

Career & Community Resource Fair

**March 25, 2009
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
NIACC Gymnasium**

- Visit with employers
- Learn about available resources
- Discuss opportunities with participating businesses.
- Discuss solutions to individual circumstances.

An Update on Iowa's Emergency Public Jobs Program

Currently, over 450 participants are involved in the Emergency Public Jobs (EPJ) program. These participants work in a variety of clerical and physical positions that include debris removal, clerical support and the restoration of public and nonprofit structures and lands. In the coming months, the number of participant are expected to double. The increase is due to the number of dislocated workers caused by the extensive layoffs of laborers throughout Iowa.

Through a \$17 million dollar National Emergency Grant, this project provides the labor for the repair and

replacement of public areas damaged by the floods and tornadoes of 2008.

In the past months, project participants have completed projects throughout the state including the clean up and repair of the Fort Madison, Iowa levee system and work with the Iowa River-Flint Creek Levee District 16 on the repair of the levee at Oakville, Iowa.

Extensive work has also been completed in many State and County public parks. EPJ participants have also assisted a variety of nonprofit organizations.

EPJ labor teams can work on projects that have been

covered by floodwater or blown down by high winds, and are in counties within Iowa that have been declared Federal disaster areas.

Participants come from the ranks of dislocated and long term unemployed workers. The wages of participants are covered under the NEG grant, and regional coordinators are responsible for the evaluation of our participants for individual work site requirements.

Projects come complete with light equipment, safety training and workmans' compensation insurance.

Mike Miller, levee maintenance supervisor for

Levee District 16, sent a letter to Governor Culver's office updating him on the work they are doing. Miller oversees the project to rebuild an area that suffered a devastating loss as a result of the historic 2008 flood. Twenty four miles of the thirty-three mile levee system has to be dismantled and the debris needs to be removed and destroyed. After six months, a lot has been accomplished but more still needs to be done. He adds that this is an example of how projects get done by "Iowans helping Iowans." It could not have been possible without the help the Emergency Public Jobs Program.

New Iowan Center History (cont.)

somehow all of this education and work history was lost in the translation. He didn't know how to get a job in his field and was only being referred to local factory jobs.

After working with an outreach specialist at the local New Iowan Center, he was able to find an opening as a software engineer at a local company. He received help preparing his cover letter, online application and interview preparation. After a 4-hour interview, Bautista was offered the position.

Established in 1999, the first two New Iowan Centers were opened in Muscatine and Sioux City, the eastern and western doors to Iowa. The centers worked with local government, businesses and agencies to identify and meet the unique needs of each community.

New Iowan Centers have since expanded to include the following ten communities: Council Bluffs, Marshalltown, Des Moines, Perry, Storm Lake, Iowa City, Mt. Pleasant, Ottumwa, Mason City and Orange City.

Each center operates from a regional perspective and plans outreach that supports the needs of the communities and counties in each centers' region.

New Iowan Centers continue to grow their services through collaboration with existing entities and a conscious effort to avoid duplication of services while consistently meeting the needs of each community in Iowa.

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



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

— Fred Housman sent a letter to state appreciation for OSHA Inspector, **Peggy Peterson**. "We appreciate

how cooperative and cordial the inspector was while here for the inspection." Peterson did not disrupt their workflow and offered several tips on how to improve safety.

— Allen Williams wrote an e-mail acknowledging the importance that **IWD's Laborshed Survey** had in convincing IBM there was in fact adequate IT labor supply to meet their needs.

"Without IWD's help/information,

I think it would have been

more difficult to win the project."

— **Susan Johannsen**, Unemployment Insurance Services Division, was recently awarded the Administrative Assistant Certificate Program by the State of Iowa Performance & Development Solutions.

— **Joseph Mullen**, Division of Labor Services; **Karen Pfab**, Division of Unemployment Services; **Todd Spencer**, Region 14 manager; **LeLoie Dutemple**, Division of Unemployment Services;

and **Jodi Douglas**, Division of Unemployment Services were recently awarded the Applied Management Series Certificate by the State of Iowa Performance & Development Solutions. This certificate, signed by the Governor, is given to state employees in recognition of successfully completing a customized training curriculum.

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, call 515-281-5407 or e-mail kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov.

Iowa Workforce Monthly

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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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Governor

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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

Anniversaries

5 Years

Don Bailey
Roxana Devine

20 Years

John McDonald

25 Years

Charles Estlick
Judy Gilkison

30-35 Years

Anthony Double
Marcia Fink

William Spetman

Judy Peters

Michele Andre
Candice Heiser-

Winston

Rosella Lally

Elaine Smith

Donald Chambers

35+ Years

Dixie Clary

New Hires

Iowa Workforce Development would like to welcome the following new employees.

Jeannie Neary

Lindsay Anderson

Joann Hickok



Promotions/Transfers

Tina Wozny

Renee Miller

Bethany Clark

