

Iowa Workforce Monthly



Highlights:

- Iowa’s OSHA Consultation and Education team recently received the coveted OSCAR.....pg. 2
- The New Iowan Center in Marshalltown invited the public to a night of cultural exploration on May 13. ...pg. 2
- IWD Deputy Director Joe Walsh testified before Congress in April to discuss how the Recovery Act impacts unemployed Iowans. ...pg. 2
- Over 1,000 attended the annual Southeast Iowa Regional Job Fair on March 26 at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium in Burlington...pg. 3
- On May 14, the Region 11 Veteran’s Team toured the Iowa Veterans Home...pg. 3

Inside this Issue:

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



2009 Legislative Session Update

Iowa Workforce Development had another successful Legislative Session this year. Under tough budget times, the Legislature maintained status quo funding for all of our core operations without using any federal stimulus money to do so. As a result, we anticipate no reduction in IWD’s services.

In addition, the Legislature created a new employee misclassification program, enhanced contractor registration efforts, and augmented Workers’ Compensation funding.

The Legislature also passed a number of key workforce policy issues including the Unemployment Insurance

Modernization Act and a Wage Payment and Child Labor Law.

As with any session, the 2009 General Assembly left future opportunities to provide economic security to Iowa’s workers, businesses and communities.

With areas of IWD’s operations experiencing a significant increase in demand, we appreciate that the Governor’s Office and Legislature recognize the importance of our programs during these tough budget times.

We thank all those who had a positive role in getting IWD’s priorities passed.

Updated Hiring Iowa Teens Book

Iowa Workforce Development would like to encourage employers to review Iowa Child Labor Laws before hiring teens under 17.

The updated version of the Hiring Iowa Teens book, available online at www.youthforiowa.org/empledu.html, reflects the multiple changes that will take effect on July 1st.

One of the changes being made includes an increase in the penalties for a parent or guardian who negligently

permits the child to work in violation of the act. The penalty is now a serious misdemeanor and is punishable by up to a \$1,875 fine and/or one year in jail per offense.

Federal documentation will now be acceptable forms of identification to verify the workers age.

For more information, contact Labor Services Division at www.iowaworkforce.org/labor or (515) 281-6374 or (515) 242-5869.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

With May almost over, summer is upon us. I hope you will get an opportunity to go out and enjoy the warm weather.

Summer also means that school will be letting out soon and many youth will begin working. We encourage all employers to review the new version of Hiring Iowa Teens book. It includes changes that will take effect on July 1st. You can find more

information online at www.iowaworkforce.org/labor.

Last month brought a close to the 2009 Iowa Legislative session – a very productive one for IWD. We provided you with a brief overview of the session and what we look forward to accomplishing in future years.

I must say congratulations to Iowa's OSHA Consultation and Education team. As you

can read below, they recently received a prestigious OSCAR award for outstanding work done during the 2008 Iowa floods. Because of their great work, the number of work-related accidents remained at a minimum. With only a few OSCAR awards given each year, this is truly an honor for the team. Good job!

Iowa OSHA Consultation & Education Receives an OSCAR

Iowa's OSHA Consultation and Education team recently received the coveted OSCAR – On Site Consultation Achievement Recognition – Award for outstanding work performed during Iowa's 2008 floods.

“Our OSHA Consultation and Education team led an outstanding effort on the ground to educate contractors on Iowa's laws during the clean-up from the natural disasters of 2008,” indicated Iowa Labor Commissioner David Neil. “Without their dedicated effort, the state would have witnessed additional work related accidents.”

U.S. Department of Labor OSHA Regional Administrator Charles Adkins submitted the award nomination for Iowa's team. In his nomination, Adkins noted that Iowa's OSHA team conducted a number of health and safety outreach efforts concentrated in Cedar Rapids and in Iowa City where twenty building and utility tunnels were flooded on the University of Iowa campus.

The primary goal of Iowa's OSHA Consultation and Education team is to reduce the incidence of injury or illness to workers by enhancing the ability to identify and control safety and health hazards.

Employers can learn about potential hazards at their worksites and improve their occupational safety and health management systems by using the free consultation services.

This service is delivered by the State of Iowa using well-trained professional staff. Most consultations take place on-site, though limited services away from the worksite are available.

This separate program is confidential and no citations or penalties are proposed or issued.

New Iowan Center Partners with Marshalltown Library

The New Iowan Center in Marshalltown invited the public to a night of cultural exploration on May 13. Native American presenters shared their personal stories, as well as history, current events, economic realities, population data and other topics related to Native Americans and their cultural legacy.

Inspired by the recent PBS series that addressed Native American history and contemporary topics from the Native American perspective, the speakers offered the public an opportunity to expand their knowledge. As a commitment to the cultural wellbeing of the community and an interest in lifelong learning, the event was held at the local library where further materials and media are available.

IWD Deputy Director Testifies Before Congress

IWD Deputy Director Joe Walsh testified before Congress in April to discuss how the Recovery Act impacts unemployed Iowans.

Walsh's talk focused on a number of issues affecting Iowa's economy, the recently passed unemployment modernization bill and the need to invest in upgrading the skills of Iowa's workers.

Iowa is the first state in the nation to pass all of the provisions attached to the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act within the federal Recovery Act.

Copies of Deputy Director Walsh's written statement are available from the IWD Communications Office.

Great Turnout for Burlington Job Fair

Over 1,000 job seekers attended the annual Southeast Iowa Regional Job Fair on March 26 at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium in Burlington.

The event was sponsored by Iowa Workforce Development and several co sponsors that include Workforce Investment Act, Iowa National Guard,

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, KILJ Radio, Mt Pleasant News, Pritchard Broadcasting, Southeastern Community College, Staples, Titan Broadcasting, Employers Council of Iowa, The Hawk Eye, Withers Broadcasting and the Burlington/Ft Madison/Keokuk/Mt Pleasant Area Chambers of Commerce.

A wide-variety of employers set-up over 45 booths to showcase their businesses and accept applications for a wide range of both current and future positions. There was really something for everyone seeking employment.

Job seekers were also able to attend workshops

with area human resource managers throughout the afternoon. The managers were available to critique current resumes, coach applicants writing their resumes for the first time and host a class called "Acing the Interview".



Region 11 Veteran's Team Tours Iowa Veterans Home

On May 14, the Region 11 Veteran's Team toured the Iowa Veterans Home including the hospital, resident rooms, dining facility, library and recreational facilities. The tour enhanced the Team's understanding of the services available to veterans, and will allow them to make more informed referrals for the veterans the Team serves. The Team was honored to represent Iowa Workforce Development at the signing of the I-Jobs legislation with Governor Chet Culver, Iowa legislators,



Department of Economic Development personnel, and other dignitaries. The Region 11 Veteran's Team then met with Governor Culver after the signing for a photo opportunity and a brief discussion of the Team's job duties.



Memorial Day is a time we stop and honor all our Iowa veterans. Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

– Macia Tope sent a letter of thanks to **Jane Richardson (Ottumwa)** and **Christy Roush (Fairfield)**

for taking the time to meet with her and sharing their knowledge. “They provided me with a very valuable learning experience and were patient as well as insightful to the questions I asked,” said Tope. She also thanked **DeAnn Barnhill (Des Moines)**, **Judy Garman (Ottumwa)** and **Randy Clark (Ottumwa)** for approving the time for the meeting.

– Greer Sisson thanked **Mark French (Des Moines)**, for doing a fantastic job recording, editing and designed the Apprenticeship website and corresponding DVD/CD's.
– Sue Anne Stoermer sent a note of thanks to **Linda Grey (Spencer)** for her professionalism and compassion when passing along some bad news. “As a

professional in the recruiting and staffing world, I will use your example going forward when I deal with candidates who also are told they were not chosen.”

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

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

Employee News

Anniversaries

5 Years

Venus Vendoures Walsh
Allen Way

10 Years

David Cordes

20 Years

Mai Lovan

25 Years

John Haan
Cheryl Killen
Sharon Sayers

30 Years

Marilyn Adler
Steven Pilcher

New Hires

Velia Caceres
Mark Halloway
Jerry Jacob
Jill Malmer
Stephanie Neuwoehner
Stacy Terriault
Adam Westrum
Joanna Wilson

Promotions/Transfers

Ryan Anderson
Jeremiah Beamer
Kimberly Benson
Frances Carpenter
Barbara Elkin
Debbie Fisher
Kelly Fredericks
James Galantis
Patricia Pearl-Chavis
Barbara Lair
Leo Loomis
Kelly Roach
Stephen Slater
Marie Suhr
Laurie Whitmore

Retirements

Joanne Hon
Luane Suma

