

Iowa Workforce Monthly

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Amusement Park Safety

IWD is reminding parents this summer to remember safety at amusement parks. The Division of Labor inspects amusement rides and concessions at least once annually to assure compliance with state rules but parents can protect kids from potential hazards by choosing suitable rides, riding along until they’re old enough to protect themselves and teaching them how to ride safely.

“Amusement parks and carnivals can be a fun and safe experience but only if riders pay attention and follow all the safety rules,” said David Neil, Labor Services Commissioner. “Everyone should understand that amusement rides are dangerous places to fool around.”

Below are a few tips to keep in mind when visiting an amusement park:

- Take responsibility for your own safety. There are no mandatory child safety regulations on amusement park rides. Iowa does inspect rides but it’s up to you to

make sure you and your family are following the rules.

- Don’t board a ride that looks unsafe - even though parks and carnivals pay attention to safety, exceptions can occur. Make sure to follow your instincts and don’t ride something that troubles you.
- Keep your arms, legs, feet and head inside the ride at all times - sometimes, hands and feet that are dangling out of the car can get caught between the moving car or surrounding structures. Make sure seat belts and lap bars are locked tight - ask for help from the ride operator if you need help.
- Parents should be aware many rides approved for children are designed to fit adult bodies and may leave small riders vulnerable to falls or forceful ejections. Make sure you pay attention to the posted weight and height restrictions.

If you would like more information, visit www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/amusement/htm.

Iowa’s Unemployed: Coping with Recession Study Released

IWD recently released a study that was designed to better understand the difficulties of Iowa’s unemployed during the most recent economic downturn.

IWD will use the research to provide better service to Iowa’s unemployed through benefits and programs.

Overall, the study found that government services and benefits were viewed in a positive light. Unemployment insurance checks/benefits/money, increasing length of unemployment benefits and increasing amount of unemployment benefits ranked as the most

important IWD service to survey respondents.

Almost all of the respondents (95.7%) felt that workforce center staff members were responsive to their needs and 94.2 percent would recommend workforce offices to others in need of employment assistance.

Overall, the survey shows a workforce battered by the recent economic recession. Respondents were financially and psychologically strained.

For the full survey report, visit www.iowaworkforce.org.

One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

I hope everyone's summer is off to a good start.

Deputy Director Walsh and I kicked off the summer in June with a tour to the Eastern region of the state. We had the wonderful opportunity to meet with local leaders, press and staff at several of the IWD offices. You can read more about our trip below and see a few photos as well. Thanks to everyone who welcomed us

during our tour. We had a great time.

Amusement parks will be very busy this summer and as you may have read on the previous page, please take a minute to think about safety while at a park or fair. While rides can be fun, they are also very large machines that can malfunction. Remember to use your instincts – if something doesn't seem safe to you,

don't ride it. Finally, IWD like many other state agencies said goodbye in June to a large group of retirees. Some of them have worked for the state for more than 40 years. While it was hard to see them go, we wish them all best wishes during their retirement. It is definitely well earned.

IWD Staff Member Honored with Outstanding Service Award from IAWP

Amber Connolly, Re-entry Advisor for the offender population at the North Central Iowa Correctional Facility, was recently awarded the Iowa Association of Workplace Professionals (IAWP) individual award for Outstanding Specialized Customer Service.

In addition to winning first place in the state, her nomination was submitted to the International IAWP level where she placed second out of nominees from 37 states and 17 countries.

Amber is one of three Re-entry Advisors in the state. Their goal is to work with offenders who will soon be released from prison to help them become job ready so they may find meaningful employment.

Director Buck and Deputy Director Walsh participate in Eastern Iowa Summer Tour

Iowa Workforce Development Director Elisabeth Buck and Deputy Director Joe Walsh recently visited a number of IowaWORKS offices in Eastern Iowa as part of a summer tour. The offices included Clinton, Maquoketa, Manchester, Oelwein, Waverly, New Hampton, Decorah and Charles City. During their visits, they discussed Iowa's state and county unemployment numbers, general employment issues affecting the area and the integrity of Iowa Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

"Throughout the recession, Iowa Workforce Development

has worked diligently to provide Iowans with the services needed to move quickly into a new career while providing the necessary economic safety nets to the community that are vital to its survival."

"It's important that we work to provide Iowans with the necessary skills to meet the needs of Iowa's employers," responded Buck.

IWD has taken a number of steps over the recent years to protect the integrity of Iowa's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, provide unique benefits

such as the voluntary shared work program and to develop a new layoff notification system. All steps are designed to lessen the impact of a recession and provide valuable services to both Iowans and businesses.



Rise Above the Crowd – Getting Hired in Today's Economy

Friday, July 16th
9 am - 1 pm
DMACC Carroll Campus
Must RSVP for free admission
(\$10 at the door)

- You'll learn:
- How to establish your personal brand
 - How to reinvent yourself
 - Break through the clutter and get hired
 - Plus much more!

To RSVP or to learn more, visit www.dmaccc.edu/careerworkshop/

National Career Readiness Certificate Assessment

Iowa Workforce Development has partnered with Iowa's Community Colleges to implement Iowa's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).

The NCRC is an ACT WorkKeys assessment-based credential that gives employers and career seekers a uniform, standard, and objective measure of key workplace skills.

It is being used by job seekers in Iowa and across the country as an employment credential. By earning a

National Career Readiness Certificate, individuals can demonstrate that they possess key foundational job skills that are needed for virtually any job.

This gives the job seeker an advantage when applying for jobs, a complement to a diploma and résumé.

Employers use the certificate along with other educational and background information, to make employment, promotional, and training decisions.

The certificate gives employers



a clear, standardized tool to assess the skill level of potential and current employees to assure job applicants actually have the basic work skills they seek.

We now have well over 260 employers who are formally recognizing the certificate and recommending job seekers have a certificate when applying.

To date, IWD & Community Colleges have awarded the following number of certificates:

Platinum – 65

Gold – 1279

Silver – 2728

Bronze – 1199

Total Certificates awarded: 5271

Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Assessment

O*NET is an occupational information network developed under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/ Employment and Training Administration through a grant to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. O*NET is an affordable tool as there is not an annual fee associated with its usage. Other career information systems have been built using the O*NET system as a base.

The O*NET system is a comprehensive database of worker attributes and job characteristics and serves as the replacement to the Dictionary of Occupational

Titles (DOT). This database is skill-based and contains information about worker attributes and job characteristics. It also contains career exploration tools that relate the results of the assessments to career and labor market information in the database.

The assessment instruments contained within O*NET include the Interest Profiler, the Work

Importance Locator, and the Ability Profiler. These

instruments help individuals identify their work-related interests, values, and abilities. Users of the tools find out more about themselves and they can link to the occupations described in the O*NET database.

This allows individuals to make an easy

O*NET may be used to:

- Explore career options
- Improve career and vocational counseling efforts
- Align educational and job training curricula with current workplace needs
- Develop job descriptions and résumés
- Facilitate employee training initiatives
- Create skills-match profiles

IWD Congratulates Retiring Employees

109 IWD employees took advantage of the early retirement package that was offered this year. On June 24th, IWD said good-bye to the last group of employees leaving. Below is the complete list of all the retiring employees. Congratulations to all and best wishes!

Region 1

Paul Fuerest
John Taylor

Region 2

Thomas Andorfer

Region 3/4

Lurene Swalve

Region 5

Leona Kramer
Linda Pingel
Renee Carson
Carol Bryhne
Jon Toal

Region 7

Judith Herman
John Elbert
Janice Ruhs
Sharon Williams
Karen Johns

Region 8

Rosella Lally

Region 9

Judy Hebestreit
Thais Grosskruger
David Cordes
Jerolyn Rockett
Mary Norton

Region 10

Beverly Burell
Susan Clark
Omer Goodner
Karen Lee
Marcia Mottinger
Tana Sabourin
Linda Svoboda

Region 11

Maradith Halverson
Raymond Reindl
James Supina

Region 12

Kay Christianson
Steve Haller
Linda Glorfield

Region 13

William Spetman
Diana Rounds

Region 14

Judy Mason

Region 15

Martha Brown
Dixie Clary
James Couch Jr.

Region 16

Peggy Rempe
Marceine Hyche
Deb Adams
John Sheilds
Teresa Zaiser

Labor Services

Barbara Buck
Ken Claussen
Stephan Hampton
Linda Albaugh
John Haan
Leah Shade

Workers' Comp.

Rose Ricke
Marjorie Shade

UI Services

LeLoie Dutemple
Linda Anderson

Information Tech. Bureau

Paul Black
Gary Broherd
Larry Lancaster
Gary Lange
Carl Martin
Judy Peters
Diana Thompson

Administrative Services

Martin Frederickson
Thelma Hubbard
Janelle Boozell
Ronald Kutchen
Mary Van De Pol
Betty Wenke

Labor Market & Workforce Information

Karen Conant
Janice Flesher
Robert Schutt

Communication Bureau

Sheryl Kelce

UI Appeals

Sharon Sayers
Cleone Williams

Workforce Development Center Administration

Jack Mustapha
Paula Freeman
Jeanne Sorenson-Wright
John Williams

UI Service Center

Richard Matlock
Lucille Campbell
Arlene Franks
Candice Winston-Heiser

UI Service Center (cont.)

Janice Mertz
Dorothy Wilson

UI Investigation/Recovery

Neil Anderson
Tom Carnahan
Larry Finley
Mary Miller
Sally Oordt

UI Records Management

Judy Hammer
Mary Morrison
Cindy Kutchen
Johanne Williams
Edith Zavaleta

UI Quality Control

Rand Cramer
Sheryl Eckhardt
Carol Roland

UI Field Audit

Beth McCartan
Juanita Rubio
Gart Frost
Deloris Hasselbrock
Nancy Kuenen
Curtis Thompson

UI Tax

Don Chambers
Sandy Camp
Sandra Kokke
Sharon Longacre
Karin Strand
Sandra Taylor
Sandra Vandenberg

Retirement Celebration Photos

Below are some photos from a recognition ceremony held on June 21st and other regional retirement celebrations.



Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

– Sandy Rulie sent in a note to thank **Ellie Heitritter, Manchester**, and other staff at the **Manchester Workforce**

Center. Sandy stated that “they helped me tremendously through a difficult unemployment situation.” Good job Ellie and the Manchester Workforce Center!

– Eric Hepperly sent a letter thanking **Debra Hodges Harmon, Waterloo**, for the excellent experience he had attending the IowaWORKS RES Program class. “I think

the reason this class was so effective was based on your passion and understanding of being unemployed, rooted

in your own personal experiences, which you shared with us.” Eric also stated that he would highly recommend this class to anyone.

– **Ann Conner, Orange City**, received a thank you note from Lane Hutton. Lane wanted to let Ann know that she played an important part in her success. Included in the note was a newspaper article that included full-time college students that earned a 4.0 grade point average during the last semester. Lane was included as one of those students.

– Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery! IWD received a request from Roy Brown with the State of Nevada. He requested permission use some of the information from IWD's Resource Guide for Job Seekers. “I know a lot of hard work and research went into creating this guide. It represents Iowa well.” Thank you Roy and the State of Nevada.

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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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

Tamara Beall-Thomas
Pamela Bloomer-Pinkston
Edward Buntenbach
Stanley Burns
Christopher Cappetto
Teresa Croft
Christopher Davis
Deanna Findlay
Jennifer Gerrish-Lampe
Mary Greco

Dawn Hernandez
Pamela Kershner
Heather Loomis
Arturo Sanchez
Raymond Taber
Sandra Townes
Sandra Trejo
Floyd Twyman
Rebecca Whitlow

Promotions/ Transfers

Matt Bielecki
Erica Elliott
Rosa Garduno
Denise Schippers
Patricia Wadle

Anniversaries

10 Years

Vicki Clarkson
Sandra Krough

15 Years

Jill Borgeson
Donald Hinkle
Lynda Fox

25 Years

Debra Gage

