

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

December 2019

Association of Iowa Workforce Partners Announcements

- Bi-weekly legislative updates for the 2020 session will start in January. If you did not receive legislative updates in the past and would like to be added to the list, please e-mail bsteirer@sppg.com.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The 2020 Annual AIWP Conference will be held March 25th-27th, 2020 at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, IA.
 - **THE CALL FOR PRESENTERS FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL AIWP CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN!** [CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO PRESENT!](#)
- Mark your calendars! The AIWP Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th from 7:30 AM- 9:30 AM in the Legislative Breakfast Room at the Iowa State Capitol.
- Contribute to the WIOA Current! Is your organization doing exceptional work in the state? Do you have resources you would like to share with other workforce professionals? We want to hear it all! Send all contributions to bsteirer@sppg.com.

Resources Worthy of Your Attention

- Master Builders of Iowa (MBI) and Build Iowa are returning in 2020 to host their series of job fairs for youth interested in the building trades. In 2020, the job fairs will take place in four locations: Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Mason City. [For dates, times, and more information, click here!](#)
- Over 5,800 students are receiving state-funded scholarships to pursue continued education this fall as part of the "Last-Dollar Scholar" program, an initiative of Governor Kim Reynolds and Future Ready Iowa. Over half of the \$13 million state allotment for this fiscal year is helping pave the way for more Iowans to acquire the education and training needed for good-paying, high-demand jobs. To read more about the Last Dollar Scholar program, [check out this article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette!](#)

Case Studies in Collaboration

"A strong economy and soaring college costs have made it even more difficult for colleges to persuade students to enroll.

And yet, employers still need skilled workers, whether it's a profession that requires a four-year degree, other jobs that require an associate degree, or skills or trades that need certificates or credentials. If fewer people are getting those credentials, those jobs often sit empty."

Community colleges play a large role in "skilling up," offering associate degrees in technical and high-demand fields. But enrollment at community colleges is down about 100,000 students from the fall of 2018.

And despite a healthy economy, many of the jobs that are being filled right now are low-wage ones, Shapiro explains. "Adults are feeling that, as long as they have a job, they don't need to go to college," he says. "And yet many of those jobs today don't really have the career potential or the earnings potential to support a family that they could get if they had a college degree."

To read more, [check out this segment on Iowa Public Radio.](#)

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives

Bryce was an in school youth who was served by our WIOA Youth program and went on to reach success despite having multiple barriers. He was 16 years old and a student at a local high school at the time of enrollment. He has a rare physical disability that impacts his joints and makes his movements stiff and difficult at times.

He was very self-conscious about his disability because the kids at school were very aware of it. He did struggle with his schoolwork also and received additional help at school and had a 504 Plan. While in our program, he successfully obtained unsubsidized employment working at a local grocery store carrying out groceries.

His parents were divorced and he bounced between his mom and dad's homes while in high school. He didn't seem to have a lot of family support and his younger brother had a lot of behavioral problems in school which seemed to impact him because he was often worried about him. He was quickly moved up to a checker position at his job at the grocery store and was successful there. He was voted by classmates to the Homecoming Court and successfully graduated from high school despite many struggles with coursework.

He hoped to attend a local community college but decided financially he would wait and work for a year or two. He was able to find his own housing after high school separate from his parents and increase his hours at the grocery store. He still has hopes of returning to college one day but feels that financially his best decision is to work for now. He enjoys his job and has been able to be self-sufficient in paying his bills.

Thank you to Val Bonney, Region 3-4 WIOA Title I Director for sharing this month's success story!

Do you want to feature a success story of your own in The WIOA Current?

[Submit Your Success Story Here!](#)

Top Ten:



Highest Paying Trade Careers

- 1) Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- 2) HVAC Technician
- 3) Home Inspector
- 4) Plumber
- 5) Electrician
- 6) Landscape Designer
- 7) Boilermaker
- 8) Respiratory Therapist
- 9) Construction Manager
- 10) Dental Hygienist

To read more about high paying trade careers, check out this article featured by [Indeed](#).

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