

# THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

August 2020

## Virtual Professional Development

We are proud to announce AIWP's NEW Monthly Professional Development Webinar Series!



### September Webinar: Joe Collins, Iowa Department of Education

Joe Collins, Education Consultant for Sector Partnerships, Career Pathways, and Work-Based Learning for the Iowa Department of Education, will share some of the new efforts by the Iowa Department of Education to provide career pathways materials, industry-specific work-based learning guidance, and leverage new data analytics to better understand and address skilled workforce shortages.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Register today!

[Register for the September 2020 Webinar here!](#)

## Resources Worthy of Your Attention

Love podcasts? Check out ***Skilled America***, a podcast produced by the National Skills Coalition. *Skilled America* is dedicated to unpacking today's most pressing workforce issues. Released on a bi-monthly basis, Chief of External Affairs Rachel Unruh hosts and interviews experts such as community college leaders, business owners, members of Congress, and more. Episodes are available wherever you listen to podcasts, or you can [download previous episodes here!](#)

**COVID-19 Policy Updates and Advocacy Guide:** As the nation responds to COVID-19, workforce development boards are seeking clarity, looking for best practices, and preparing for a wide range of crisis scenarios. The National Association of Workforce Boards has collected information and resources aimed at helping you respond to the needs of your community. [Check out NAWB's COVID-19 policy updates and resources here.](#)

## Case Studies in Collaboration

## Extra \$300 Weekly Unemployment Benefit To Go Out This Week For Iowans.

A \$300 federal enhanced unemployment benefit will start going out this week for some. The benefits stem from an Executive Memorandum President Trump signed on August 8th as negotiations over a stimulus packaged stalled in Congress. FEMA announced that Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, and New Mexico are the first states FEMA has approved under the lost wages assistance program (LWA). [Read more about additional funding available to Iowa residents here.](#)

## WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives



### Danielle McGrath: Thankful for a Helping Hand

In 2017, through the Workforce Skills to Employment program, I was introduced to my advisor Mike Rose. The Workforce Skills to Employment program was key in allowing me to attend Mount Mercy University so I could obtain my bachelor's degree in the legal system. Not only was Mike available in assisting me every step of the way, but he worked tirelessly to help me attend an accredited University which was needed in order for me to further my career.

Without the funding for my unmet needs, there is no doubt I would not have been able to attend, nor complete my degree in under two years. I recently accepted a full-time position with Collins Aerospace in which I will be working with government officials, reviewing contracts, and assisting top level managers.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity WIOA was able to grant me. Without this program I am not sure where I would be. Additionally, I do not believe I would have been extended an opportunity in the capacity I have been at Collins Aerospace. Much thanks and gratitude to Mike Rose, the staff, and Workforce program for helping achieve my goals and take my career to the next level!

**Thank you to Carla Andorf, Dean of Workforce Services at Kirkwood Community College, 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!**

## New COVID-19 Data From SPPG + Essman Research

New data from SPPG+  
Essman Research highlights  
difficult the difficult decisions

employers must make when it comes to re-opening their workplaces to employees and customers. Below are some highlights of the recent data (collected July 2020):

- **Eighty-one percent** of organization leaders or managers surveyed said that protecting the health of employees and customers was their greatest concern about reopening and recovery of their business; followed by 53% who reported a resurgence of COVID-19 and a second shutdown of their workplace as their greatest concern.

## How long will it take the U.S. economy to rebound from the coronavirus?



SPPG + Essman Research, April 2020

- Nearly **two-thirds of employees** who reported being furloughed or working from home reported being concerned about the risk to their health if they returned to their workplaces despite reassurances from their employers about COVID-19 precautions being in place.
- **Sixty-four percent** of employees surveyed reported their knowledge and use of technology has increased in an effective way since working from home.

**Want to read more? Check out the full report here!**

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