

THE AIWP CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

October 2020

Virtual Professional Development

Join us for our October Professional Development Webinar!



October Webinar: Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Loren Bawn serves as the Operations Manager for the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services. Loren has been helping refugees on their paths to self-sufficiency in Iowa for almost two decades.

Participants will learn about a new initiative of the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services to create a human services apprenticeship for refugee post-secondary youth. The program will use Youth Mentoring funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement to build, test and deploy an apprenticeship for refugees who help government agencies and nonprofits extend their services to refugee clients.

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

**Date: Wednesday, October 21st
Time: 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM CST
Cost: FREE!**

Register for the October 2020 Webinar here!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

Join Iowa Vocational Rehab Services, Easterseals Iowa, and the Department of Veterans Affairs in a virtual event about increasing access and opportunity for employing persons with disabilities.

Learn about accommodations in the workplace from subject matter experts and business partners!

Date: Wednesday, October 28th

Time: 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM CST
Cost: FREE!

Reserve your spot today! E-mail
michelle.kreffft@iowa.gov to register.

NATIONAL DISABILITY
EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS

INCREASING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Learn about accommodations in the
workplace from experts and
business partners

The Vocational
Rehabilitation
Center

easterseals
iowa

DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020

Virtual Zoom: 9am-noon
Email michelle.kreffft@iowa.gov to reserve a
spot

2020 NAWDP Virtual Youth Symposium

Early Bird registration for NAWDP's 2020 Virtual Youth Symposium is now open. Sign up now to take advantage of Early Bird pricing at **\$350 for members, \$450 for non-members**. The Youth Symposium will be held December 7th-9th and will be a combination of live and recorded sessions. Live events will also be recorded and attendees can access all sessions through the month of December.

Youth Symposium workshops will be centered around the following tracks:

- Educating and Training Our Future Workforce
- Employment, Retention and Advancement
- Overcoming Barriers
- Recruiting and Engaging Youth
- Self-Care for Workforce Professionals

[Register Today!](#)

Resources Worthy of Your Attention



The 2020 Iowa Hunger Summit is going virtual!

This year's Summit will feature conversations on the importance of racial equity within our food system and address the effects and long-term outcomes of COVID-19 on vulnerable and under-resourced populations.

Sessions will highlight a compilation of resources and initiatives that comprehensively support increased food security in our communities. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the challenges and barriers Iowans face, and receive tools to implement long-lasting change.

The online event will take place over the course of three days, October 19th - October 21st, and is free to register!

[To register for the 2020 Iowa Hunger Summit, click here.](#)

Case Studies in Collaboration

Seeing the Pandemic as a "Workforce Opportunity"

Before the pandemic, "Employers were looking for workers everywhere," recalled Amber Ramirez, program manager for the Central Iowa Returning Citizens Achieve program. "Employers are willing to talk to us and figure out how to hire people that maybe they wouldn't have considered previously."

Now, the job climate has changed dramatically. The state unemployment rate spiked in April to levels higher than in the previous two recessions combined, resulting in more than \$1 billion in unemployment benefits for Iowans. With hundreds of thousands of Iowans out of work, the skills gap is expected to expand, not contract.

Many people see the pandemic as an opportunity for new job training policies that tackle the skills gap long-term. Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Finance Authority, said in July, "What I see is a tremendous amount of opportunity going forward."

However, barriers to internet access, skills training programs that are above capacity with the newly unemployed, lack of public transportation and childcare, and Iowa's aging population all present challenges to addressing the skills gap in Iowa.

[Read more about how businesses, workforce centers, and state agencies are working together to address these challenges in this article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette.](#)

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives



Diane Mitchell: Stepping Stones to Success

Diane was a part of a major layoff in Atlantic, IA in May 2017. She had been working for the company for about 1 year. She had participated in a Rapid Response Meeting provided by local staff followed by a Trade Meeting held by State Staff.

After she had completed some career exploration with her Career Planner, she decided to participate in a 2-year Human Resource Management Degree Program at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs. With the help of her counselor, she completed a Trade Training application including comparing school programs, interviewing someone working in the field and career assessments.

After being approved for Trade Training assistance, she received financial assistance with educational expenses, fuel expenses and additional unemployment while she completed her training. She had some personal issues come up during the course of training and her

counselor worked with her to keep her in school to complete her degree and graduated in May 2019. She worked with her counselor on her resume and interviewing skills to prepare her for work after graduation.

While in school she completed an internship with Mahle in Atlantic in the Human Resources Department. Following graduation they offered her a full time position and she has been there ever since. She has been grateful for the opportunity and is happy to be working in her community.

Thank you to Kaylene Page, Director of Workforce Development at Iowa Western Community College, for sharing this month's success story!

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

Submit Your Success Story Here!

Top 10: Industries Hardest Hit by COVID-19

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Construction
- 3) Higher Education
- 4) Healthcare
- 5) Hospitality and Gaming
- 6) Manufacturing
- 7) Non-profits
- 8) Public sector
- 9) Restaurants/Service
- 10) Small Businesses



The impacts of COVID-19 on these industries vary in degree and scope. To read more about how the pandemic as affected those working in these industries, [read the full report by the Alera Group, available here.](#)

Join the Association of Workforce Partners!

AIWP is now accepting new members!

The Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) is an **advocacy organization** that works on behalf of workforce development professionals in the state of Iowa. AIWP ensures workforce service providers can focus on providing high-quality results to their customers by offering **legislative relations, communications, and professional development services to members and staff.**

Members have access to all of the services of AIWP, including:

- AIWP annual professional development conference,
- Legislative Days at the capitol,
- Advocacy event planning and coordination,
- Professional development opportunities,
- and more!

New members receive the first three months of membership FREE! If you're interested in joining AIWP, please contact Bri Steirer at (515) 237-0338 or bsteirer@sppg.com.



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