

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

August 2019

Association of Iowa Workforce Partners Announcements

- **SAVE THE DATE!** The 2020 Annual AIWP Conference will be held March 25th-27th, 2020 at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, IA.
- The WIOA Current is transitioning to monthly newsletters starting August 2019.
- **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

- Check out the U.S. DOL's Workforce Development blog, which features a number of great entries about apprenticeships, dislocated workers, vocational rehab, and all things workforce development! [You can access their monthly archives here.](#)
- **Iowa's Career Coach tool** is a great resource for career exploration which allows users to find high-demand, high salary jobs and related education/training providers. Career Coach also includes a career assessment, military to civilian occupation cross-walk, and resume builder.

Case Studies in Collaboration

Over 50 percent of Americans with disabilities are unemployed or out of the workforce entirely. In the almost 30 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed by Congress, that needle has hardly moved. Iowa has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation with as many as 80,000 jobs currently vacant. That leaves us asking, why should any Iowan who wants to work be unemployed?

Everyone at Work is a national non-profit that aims to engage Deaf persons, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups in the workforce. Everyone at Work is partnering with the Harkin Institute to launch an inaugural career event for Deaf Iowans.

This two-day innovation workshop and career fair is taking place Aug. 13-15 at Drake University, and will include a panel discussion featuring Iowa companies who have already successfully integrated Deaf employees into their workforces. There will also be a pre-event outing to the Iowa State Fair for attendees to learn about the diversity of industries across the state.

The event is being sponsored by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, and other leading Iowa businesses.

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives



Christian was referred to the WIOA Title I Youth program from the Burlington Halfway House. He had just turned 18 and already had several drug charges and a firearm charge. Christian's barriers included having an incarcerated parent, he dropped out of high school in 10th grade and he has a child. After meeting with Christian and having him complete some assessments, we decided that pursuing a skilled trade would suit him well. We also referred him to the Hiset program that Title I helps run at the Halfway House.

We set Christian up on a Work Experience at Gregory Manufacturing and Design, and Title I assisted with any clothing/tools he needed to begin. Title I also assisted with transportation to and from his WEP. After a few weeks, he showed potential in Welding, and his supervisor had him start training.

In addition to working 40 hours a week, Christian also attended the evening Hiset classes at the Halfway House every day they were in session, with a goal of finishing in time for graduation. After less than 2 months of attending Hiset, Christian passed all of his tests and received his High School Equivalency Diploma in time to walk at Hiset graduation.

Christian is currently working as a Welder at Gregory Manufacturing and continues to get glowing reviews from his supervisor. He has begun treatment for substance abuse and is on track to be released from the Halfway House in the near future. We will continue to support and provide guidance upon his release.

Thank you to Kelsey Howard, Region 16 Title I Director, for sharing this success story!

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

[Submit Your Success Story Here!](#)

Top Ten: Soft Skills Employers Seek

- A positive attitude
- A strong work ethic
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Time management skills
- Flexibility
- Team-players
- Computer/technological skills
- Project management skills

Ability to accept constructive criticism



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