

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

March 2020

Association of Iowa Workforce Partners Announcements

PATHWAYS PERSONAL SUCCESS

A WIOA Conference

REGISTER NOW FOR THE AIWP 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

March 26th-27th, 2020

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
5291 Stoney Creek Ct.
Johnston, IA 50131

FEATURING:



Leadership Expert and
Keynote Address Patty
Hendrickson



Relaxation Expert Beth
Freschi



Free Chair Massages by
Jill Ellsworth and the
Serenity Massage Team

REGISTER NOW!

Resources Worthy of Your Attention

[Iowa DOE funding opportunity aimed at supporting adult education and literacy programs.](#) Spread the word within your networks about this funding opportunity to support programs that help adults gain the skills and training needed to further their education and secure living-wage jobs. The Iowa Department of Education will award approximately \$3 million in federal funding available through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support the following programs:

1. English Language Acquisition, Adult Basic Education and High School Completion.
2. Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education.
3. Corrections/Institutionalized Services.

[Iowa manufacturing gets some good news — but trade, international concerns temper optimism.](#) The agricultural economy is steadying, though experts don't expect farmers' purchases of large equipment to rise next year.

U.S. trade deals with Canada, Mexico and China are “important first steps” to boost farmers’ confidence, a Deere & Co. executive said Friday on a call with investors. The Moline, Illinois-based company reported net income of \$517 million for the quarter that ended Feb. 2, an increase of about \$20 million from the same period a year ago. The news pleased investors, who sent Deere’s stock up about 7% by the end of Friday.

At the same time, Kinze Manufacturing, a major farm implement maker in Williamsburg, says its market is beginning to improve. And Pella-based Vermeer Corp., which makes heavy equipment for agriculture, mining and construction, says sales remain strong.

The news is a flicker of hope against the backdrop of drags on Iowa’s economy since the Great Recession. Manufacturing jobs have never fully recovered from the economic downturn. [Learn more about why Iowa manufacturers are hesitant to celebrate in this article in The Hawk Eye.](#)

Case Studies in Collaboration

[Prestage Foods of Iowa: Fulfilling its promise](#)

Almost one year after opening its sprawling \$350 million pork plant south of Eagle Grove, Prestage Foods of Iowa is still climbing toward its goal of employing 950 workers. About 800 people currently work at the 700,000-square-foot slaughter facility, which began operations March 4, 2019, according to Jere Null, Prestage’s chief operating officer.

Prestage came to Wright County with the promise of creating 922 jobs. Its development agreement with the county requires them to employ at least that many. [Read more about Prestage foods in this article in The Fort Dodge Messenger.](#)

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives

Check out this video featuring Brittany's inspiring success story!



Thank you to Melissa Vorrie, Region 5 Fort Dodge, 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 Facts You Should Know About Iowa's Proposed Medicaid Work Requirements

- 1) The Senate bill would affect the population covered by the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, which was established under the Affordable Care Act for qualifying people ages 19 to 64. The bill would require able-bodied recipients to work or volunteer.**
- 2) People on Medicaid would have to work at least 20 hours per week. Alternatives include 20 hours of volunteering or participation in a work program.**
- 3) Approximately 167,000 Iowans on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, 57.5% of members would be exempt from the work requirements, leaving nearly 71,000 members whose cases would need to be reviewed.**
- 4) The Trump Administration opened the door for Medicaid work requirements in January 2018, when the head of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued guidance to help states design the programs.**

5) 10 states (Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin) have received federal approval for work requirements.

6) In Arkansas, a reported 18,000 people initially lost their health insurance during the six months that the requirements were in place. New Hampshire faced the possibility of removing nearly 17,000 people after two months. Both states' programs have since been set aside due to legal challenges.

7) A report by the Legislative Services Agency showed the work requirements will likely result in an overall cost decrease to the state, although there will be up-front costs.

8) The Legislative Services Agency did not analyze the potential impact on hospitals and other safety net providers who serve the Medicaid population.

9) The Senate bill would broaden the umbrella of who falls under work-related requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as food stamps.

10) If the bill passes the Senate and the House and is signed by the Governor, provisions of the bill will go into effect Jan.1, 2021.

To read more about Iowa's new proposed Medicaid work requirements, [check out this article in the Des Moines Register!](#)

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The logo for AIWP (Arkansas Iowa Work Project) features the lowercase letters 'aiwp' in a light blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' has a small dot above it. The logo is centered within a dark blue rectangular background.