

# THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

September 2020

## Virtual Professional Development

### Join us for our September Professional Development Webinar!



#### 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!

Date: Thursday, September 24th

Time: 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM CST

Cost: FREE!

[Register for the September 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



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020

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

## 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](mailto:bsteirer@sppg.com).



## Resources Worthy of Your Attention

**New IowaWORKS mobile app helps job seekers connect with workforce services.** Iowa Workforce Development announced a new phone app Monday that residents can use to look for jobs.

Available on Apple and Android devices, the app allows users to look through listings on [iowaworks.gov](http://iowaworks.gov), which compiles postings from several online job boards. The website also provides data on which occupations are hiring the most, how much the average worker in a certain field earns and whether there are any job fairs advertised in town. **[Click here to learn more about the new mobile app.](#)**



### Lynnette Williams: Making a Change, Making a Difference

Lynnette Williams, age 26, was laid off from her job at Commercial Vehicle Group in Edgewood in March of 2016 due to a plant closure. Her prior work history included food service and manufacturing.

When WIOA Title I staff provided an on-site Worker Information Meeting to share resources and services available to the employees, Lynnette jumped at the opportunity to better herself and move into a career that she would enjoy and be able to make a difference in people's lives. In the weeks nearing the closure, Title I Career Planners made regular visits to the plant to enroll workers in the Dislocated Worker program and work one-on-one with employees to provide NCRC testing, career assessments, labor market information, and career counseling.

Lynnette was grateful for the Trade assistance but her goal was to become a Registered Nurse and complete the Associate Degree of Nursing program because she knew through her research that her job prospects would be better, along with better wage potential. Upon completion of her Practical Nursing program with Trade, Title I stepped in to assist Lynnette while she finished her Associate Degree of Nursing. Lynnette graduated in May of 2019 and is now working full time at MercyOne Elkader Medical Center as a Registered Nurse for \$22.30/hour with a \$2/hour shift differential.

Lynnette stated, "I appreciate all of the programs I was able to participate in and how helpful and friendly the staff at IowaWORKS are. I would not be where I am today without the help I received. I now am able to work in a field where I can make a difference in many lives."

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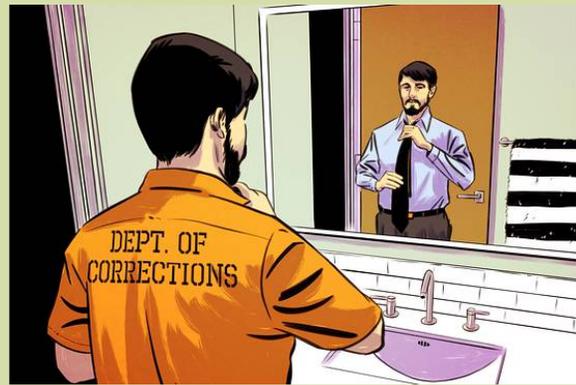
**Thank you to Ron Axtell, Employment & Training Director at the East Central Intergovernmental Association, for sharing this month's success story!**

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

**[Submit Your Success Story Here!](#)**

**There are promising policy choices available to lawmakers at each level of government that would help formerly incarcerated people gain employment and increase public safety:**

**Issue a temporary basic income upon release:** Providing short-term financial stability for formerly incarcerated people would operate as an investment, helping to ease reintegration and provide public safety and recidivism reduction benefits that would result in long-term cost savings.



**Implement automatic record expungement procedures:** A prison sentence should not be a perpetual punishment. Having an automatic mechanism for criminal record expungement that takes into account the offense type and length of time since sentencing would, in the near term, help formerly incarcerated people succeed and would, in the long term, promote public safety.

**Make Bond insurance and tax benefits for employers widely available:** Some governmental bodies offer insurance and tax incentives for employers who hire people with criminal records, protecting against real or perceived risks of loss. Increasing the availability of such programs would provide hesitant employers with added financial security.

**Ban blanket employer discrimination:** Criminal records are not good proxies for employability. Additionally, because of racially disproportionate incarceration rates, organizations who discriminate against people with criminal records may also be contributing to racial discrimination and are therefore subject to litigation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Enact occupational licensing reform:** Numerous occupations require prospective workers to obtain job-related state licenses. Unfortunately, acquiring such licenses often involves passing a criminal background check. States should reform their licensing practices so as to eliminate the automatic rejection of people with felony convictions.

To read more, check out the [full study from the Prison Policy Institute here.](#)

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