

# THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

May 2020

## Virtual Professional Development



### FEATURED WEBINAR: *Fines Double in Road Construction- Deadra Stanton*

Deadra Stanton will present her session: *Fines Double in Road Construction* on **Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 PM CST** as part of AIWP's virtual professional development series. Registration is free, so sign up to reserve your spot now!

**REGISTER NOW!**

Check out **SPENT**, a virtual poverty simulation developed by Urban Ministries in Durham, NC: SPENT is a great virtual alternative to in-person poverty simulations and addresses the difficult decisions faced by low-income individuals. The SPENT program is available FREE at their website: <http://playspent.org/>

## Resources Worthy of Your Attention

**Check out this comprehensive list of COVID-19 related resources from Iowa DHS.** Here you can find links to COVID-19 resources for childcare, food assistance, medicaid, and more. **Find out more!**

**Curious about how the COVID-19 outbreak is affecting Iowa's workforce system?** Iowa Workforce Development provides live updates surrounding the spread of the virus and how it is affecting those that work in and depend on workforce services statewide. **Follow IWD updates here!**

## Case Studies in Collaboration

**Iowa's childcare centers are facing unexpected difficulties during COVID-19 outbreak.**

Childcare providers expected a wave of children when schools were closed due to COVID-19. However, May 2020 data from the Iowa Department of Human Services show 171 registered child development homes and 969 licensed child care centers have closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As parents experience lay-offs or work from home, child care providers- who usually have a wait list for summer- have seen business decline to the point of closure.

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



### Molly Rhodes: Working on the Front Line of a Pandemic

Molly Rhodes started the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing (ADN) at Eastern Iowa Community College in 2011. She spent three years pursuing her degree. With the assistance of the Title I program, and her counselor, Johnna Forbes, Molly was able to complete the ADN program at EICC and she continued to attain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Molly currently works at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City and recently discussed what it is like being on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

When asked how the pandemic has impacted her career as a nurse, Molly stated that flexibility is important. She has fulfilled various positions since the pandemic hit Iowa, including auditing, working the floor in the medical/surgical unit, and screening employees. She talked about the increased risk of contracting the virus with the exposure of patients, visitors, and other healthcare professionals. Taking extra precautions and wearing additional personal protective equipment is all part of a day's work. Molly wears a face mask all day, and dons a face shield whenever she is in contact with any patient. Additional precautions and gear are worn when in contact with those affected by COVID. The mask is supposed to be single use and disposed of, but she is required to wear the mask distributed at the beginning of her shift for the entire day because of short supply. Molly said the hospital uses different chemicals and wipes for sanitizing, and some of these products are difficult to find and are on backorder. Precautions such as taking temperatures and participating in screening of medical staff is crucial to ensure those on the front lines are not compromised by the virus. Continuous improvement to processes and procedures is necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible.

When Molly was asked how she feels about her profession when faced with a pandemic like the COVID-19 virus, she said she can't help but feel empowered. Her career is critical at a time like this, and she is happy to work in an organization that is doing its best to keep staff up to date and following best practices as directed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She said it has brought a sense of teamwork, friendship, and family to the workplace more than ever.

Molly stated that the impact doesn't stop at her workplace. Like many others who are working in the medical field during this difficult time, Molly worries about exposing her children or other family members. Following safe practices at home is also a way of life to keep everyone safe.

As Molly's team does their best to make a positive impact to flatten the curve of the virus in Iowa, Molly realizes her influence to help make this happen. Staying educated, educating patients, following policies and procedures, wearing proper protective equipment, and being available to help wherever she can will make a difference. Molly said their hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Patients, send cards, flowers, and candy to show their appreciation. Both friends and strangers have thanked Molly and her staff in many ways.

When asked if she had any words of wisdom to other students pursuing a degree in Health Care, Molly said, "It might be scary, but it is worth it. We are needed more than ever now. This field is rewarding and versatile. Stay educated and keep pushing on. You will be happy you did!"

Since graduating from EICC with her ADN and completing her BSN, Molly has held various positions including staff nurse in a wound clinic and on the medical unit, and charge nurse. She also works PRN (as needed) as a school nurse at Lone Tree School, giving back to her community in many ways!

Molly feels that her counselor, Johnna, and the WIOA Title I funding was crucial to her success. As a new mom starting school, Molly said that Johnna provided the emotional support to give her the confidence to

keep going. With Johnna's assistance, Title I was able to help with school tuition, books, and fees. Title I also helped reduce her financial burden by providing transportation reimbursement when she traveled to different health care facilities to complete clinical hours. Molly received financial assistance for final testing, which can be very costly.

Molly said Johnna was supportive of her when she was in school, and continues to be supportive even though she has been exited from the program for several years. While Molly stated how thankful she is for Johnna and the program, we hand our thanks back to Molly who is working on the front lines of pandemic to keep us all safe! Thanks, Molly!

**Thank you to Paula Arends, Region 9 - Davenport, for sharing this month's success story!**

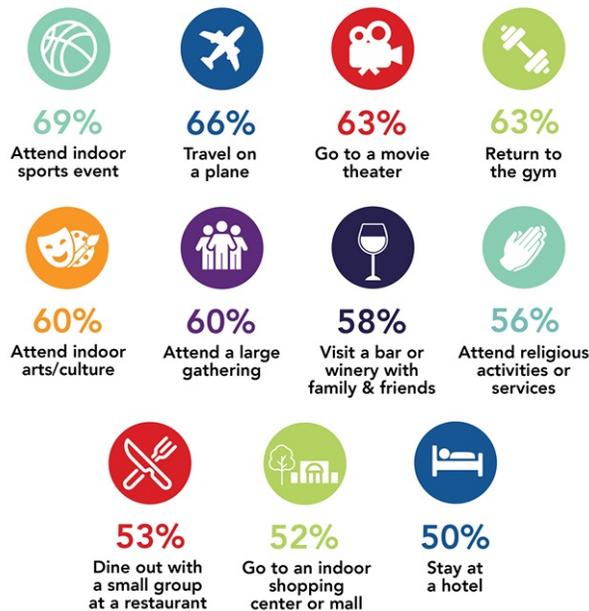
Do you want to feature a success story of your own in The WIOA Current?

[Submit Your Success Story Here!](#)

## lowans are Concerned About COVID-19: New Data from SPPG + Essman Research

### Recovery - Returning to Normal

Most lowans are **not very comfortable** resuming normal activities/getting out in public.



**SPPG + ESSMAN RESEARCH**

SPPG + Essman Research, May 2020

SPPG + Essman Research released Wave 2 of their COVID-19 survey on May 6th as a follow up to their initial survey findings.

The data reveals that many lowans are concerned about community spread of COVID-19 in the state:

- 86% of lowans know family/friends who have lost their jobs or had work hours reduced due to COVID-19.
- 78% of lowans are likely to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when shopping for essential items.
- 86% of lowans reported increased stress levels.

[For more insights from SPPG + Essman Research, check out their website!](#)

aiwip