

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

October 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.
- Mark your calendars! The AIWP Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th from 7:30 AM- 9:30 AM in the Legislative Breakfast Room at the Iowa State Capitol.
- 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

- Iowa Workforce Development and the Iowa Department of Corrections are co-hosting the **Employer and Reentry Breakfast Roundtable on Nov. 6 at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, starting at 8:00 a.m. Free tickets for the event are available on [Eventbrite](#).**
- **[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

Waterloo has become the first city in Iowa to join the Ban the Box movement.

On October 7, 2019, Waterloo, Iowa, became the first city in the state to join the "Ban the Box" movement by passing an ordinance that makes asking job applicants about criminal records early in the hiring process an "unlawful discriminatory practice" for employers

Ban the Box is a growing nationwide movement that seeks to advance job opportunities for applicants with criminal records by eliminating any inquiry into the criminal history on initial job applications. As of October 2019, more than 150 cities and counties, as well as 35 states, have passed Ban the Box laws.

To read more about Waterloo's new Ban the Box initiative, check out the [full segment on Iowa Public Radio](#).

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives

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. When it was announced that the closure was also certified Trade, even more opportunities were afforded to Lynnette to reach her career goal of becoming a nurse. Lynnette's Title I Career Planner assisted Lynnette with the Trade application for classroom training to attend Northeast Iowa Community College for the Practical Nursing program which could be completed within Trade's timeframe of approveable classroom training.

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."

Thank you to Ron Axtell, Region 1 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: Workplace Trends of 2019

1) The co-existence of workers and robots.

- 2) Employees want a more flexible workweek.
- 3) The rise of work friendships.
- 4) Companies using mindfulness to relieve stressed workers.
- 5) Companies are moving away from open office plans.
- 6) More companies are offering healthcare.
- 7) Companies are using robots to close their skill gaps.
- 8) Companies are under pressure to take diversity seriously.
- 9) Paid Leave is on the rise for both women and men.
- 10) Natural light in a workplace is important to employee well being.

To read more about the top ten workplace trends of 2019, [check out this article by Dan Schawbel](#).

AIWP | 515.243.2000 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

The logo for AIWP, consisting of the lowercase letters 'aiwp' in a yellow, sans-serif font. The 'i' has a dot, and the 'p' has a long descender.