

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

January 2020

Association of Iowa Workforce Partners Announcements

- Stay informed with bi-weekly legislative updates from AIWP. If you did not receive legislative updates in the past and would like to be added to the list, please e-mail bsteirer@sppg.com.
- [REGISTER NOW for the 2020 Annual AIWP Conference](#). The 2020 Annual AIWP Conference will be held March 25th-27th, 2020 at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston, IA.
 - The call for presenters for the 2020 Annual AIWP Conference is now open! [CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO PRESENT!](#)
- 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

- **Kirkwood, ICR Iowa launch 2022 employer-needs survey.** With the state pursuing numerous strategies to address workforce shortages — rolling out scholarships, hosting summits and supporting employer innovation — Kirkwood Community College again is teaming with a local collaborative to evaluate the specific needs of Eastern Iowa. To learn more, [check out this article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette](#).
- **CBJ Report: Hiring is tough in Iowa and getting tougher.** A new analysis from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce shows that there are too few available workers nationwide to fill available job openings, evidence of a historically tight labor market for employers, particularly small businesses – and a mounting threat to the U.S. economy's continued growth. The issue is even more acute in Iowa, where there were 51,451 workers for 82,583 available jobs for a Worker Availability Ratio of 0.62. Iowa's dismal ratio was behind only North Dakota's nationwide in terms of worker shortages.

Case Studies in Collaboration

"For what may be the first time in history, Iowa's workforce is now employing

people from five different generations. There's the Traditionalists, born before 1946, the Baby Boomers, the Gen Xers, the Millennials and those from Generation Z."

Kathy Joblinske, executive vice president of Iowa Manpower, says the high demand for workers is the "new normal" since the 2008 recession.

"We're finding that more people are staying in the workforce longer, they're also healthier and living longer," Joblinske says. "Those that may have retired earlier by now are sticking in the workforce a little bit longer and stretching out their income opportunity."

A diverse workforce requires diversity and accessibility in services. Read more about Iowa's inter-generational workforce [in this piece by Radio Iowa](#).

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives

Dylan Witt was referred to Title 1 Youth program in Marshalltown in April, 2019 by a workforce advisor who was helping Dylan with his job search.

Dylan graduated from high school and went directly to Job Corp for 6 months. He gained valuable skills as a forklift operator and material handler. He was determined to find a job on his own, but after several months of not getting a job offer, he was willing to enroll in the youth program to get assistance with job searching, updating his resume and refreshing his interviewing skills.

His primary barriers to employment were a learning disability, lack of work experience and living with grandparents in a small town that had very limited job opportunities. He moved to Marshalltown to live with his dad which opened up more opportunities. He started a Work Experience at Theisen's in Marshalltown where Title 1 paid his wages. He immediately felt comfortable there and settled in to a routine of working 20 hours per week.

He loves his job working in the seasonal department and has made many friends. He feels like they are family. His Work Experience will end the first week of February and he is discussing with his manager the possibility of becoming a regular employee. He has told his youth career advisor that he really hopes he can stay at Theisen's and that he feels he is very good at what he does. Dylan has learned a lot of important soft skills during his work experience that he can use at future places of employment.

Thank you to Becky Hassett, Region 6 WIOA Title I Director 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:



Barriers to Employment

- 1) Age
- 2) Disability
- 3) Criminal Record
- 4) Disadvantaged Background
- 5) Domestic Violence
- 6) Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse
- 7) Lack of Formal Education
- 8) Childcare Availability/Affordability
- 9) Housing Issues/ Homelessness
- 10) Limited English proficiency

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

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