

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

Winter/Spring 2019

Happenings at the Association of Iowa Workforce Partners

- Register NOW for the 2019 AIWP Annual Conference- Wednesday, March 27 - Friday, March 29, 2019 at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center in Johnston, IA. [Click here](#) to register now!
 - Are you interested in being a vendor for the 2019 AIWP Annual Conference? [Click here](#) to register as a vendor.
- The [NEW AIWP website](#) is active! Check it out to stay up-to-date with all AIWP happenings!

Resources Worthy of Your Attention

- [StudyWorkforce Online Course- The Case for Strong Workforce Boards and Board Staff](#); This no-cost online course helps board members, staff, and LEOs understand how to leverage WIOA in support of their workforce and economic development agenda.
- Join Ron Painter, NAWB President and CEO, as he talks with leaders in workforce development, education, business, and economic development about key workforce issues on Workforce Central, the official podcast of NAWB. [Find the latest episodes of Workforce Central here!](#)

Case Studies in Collaboration

Iowa Business Leaders demand smart, comprehensive immigration reform to address Iowa's worker shortage. Iowa business leaders are arguing the state economy could be impaired unless the federal government addresses its current shortcomings in immigration and labor policy.

Doug Neumann, head of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, argues that immigration is one of the few factors that has the ability to move the needle on Iowa's current workforce shortage. "What are the challenges? Workforce, workforce, workforce, workforce, workforce and then a couple of other small things," Neumann said. "It is an acute, major, singular issue preventing greater growth than we are seeing right now."

The need for upskilling programs remains in high-demand as immigrants entering Iowa's workforce come with a wide array of skill sets, education levels, and language abilities. Rama Muzo, of the intercultural Center of Iowa, says workers from immigrant and refugee communities may need some additional support and coaching to help them transition into new, in-demand careers, "You have employers who are actually looking for individuals. And then you have individuals that do look for employment and want to work, and their work ethic is exceptional. However there is a disconnect either because of a language barrier or the culture barrier."

Translating WIOA

- [Support builds for \\$22 million plan to fund Future Ready Iowa:](#) A five-member House Appropriations subcommittee heard support from business groups, builders, developers and others for Future Ready Iowa, Reynolds' initiative that aims to ensure 70 percent of Iowa workers have training or education beyond high school by 2025.
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Dear Bob



Dear Bob,

What is the role of localized decision-making in providing high-quality workforce programs?

One of the key pillars of WIOA is establishing integrated workforce programs that can efficiently and effectively respond to local workforce and business needs.

In Iowa, workforce regions are designed to align with the 15 community college regions throughout the state. This gives each region the unique ability to respond to workforce and labor market needs on a localized level and align themselves with the immediate needs of the local business community. It also allows for close working relationships between community college programs and local business leaders.

This close-knit relationship between community colleges, local business leaders, and workforce partners cannot be replicated at the state level. Local decision-making aims to increase the potential for business to look locally for new hires and ensure that there is a local workforce available to meet those demands. No two communities across Iowa have the same needs. Local decision making affords individual communities the ability to cultivate a rich local workforce that meets local needs.

Upcoming Events

- **AIWP 2019 Annual Conference;** Wednesday, March 27- Friday, March 29th, 2019 at Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center in Johnston, IA
 - **2019 Future Ready Iowa Summit;** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, IA.
 - **2019 National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) Conference;** May 5th-8th, 2019 in San Antonio, TX.
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