

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

June 2020

Virtual Professional Development

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, American workers were facing new digital demands. Now, as workers and businesses scramble to adapt to a rapidly changing economic environment, **digital skills have become a threshold competency.**



The National Skills Coalition addresses this digital shift in their latest webinar, **American Workers' Digital Skills: What the Data Tells Us.**

**Check out the
webinar here!**

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) created the **Youth Action Council on Transition to establish a model for youth engagement.** Too often, youth don't have a voice in the decisions that agencies and organizations make about the services and opportunities offered to youth. It is important for all the adults in their lives to hear from youth directly about what they need and want during the transition years so they can provide the right opportunities, services, and supports. **[Check out the Youth Council's By Youth, For Youth: Employment report here.](#)**

Resources Worthy of Your Attention

Workers of color are disproportionately affected by digital skill gaps compared to their white peers, in large part due to structural factors that are the product of longstanding inequities in American society, such as income and wealth gaps and uneven access to high-quality K-12 education. The National Skills Coalition's report ***Applying a Racial Equity Lens to Digital Literacy*** aims to unpack the inequity of digital skills. **[Read more here!](#)**

Having trouble communicating the importance of local workforce boards to employers? The National Association of Workforce Boards and UpSkill America have released a new tool on how employers can use workforce boards to upskill their workers. **[Check it out here!](#)**

Case Studies in Collaboration

lowans can access free professional courses online through Coursera. Iowa Workforce Development has partnered with Coursera to offer free online learning opportunities to lowans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Coursera is an online learning platform with over 4,300 courses available from a variety of academic institutions and organizations worldwide. The online classes and certificate programs are available to lowans at no cost if they register for and enroll in any of the courses by Sept. 20, and complete their courses by Dec. 31.

To register for courses on Coursera through Iowa Workforce Development, click here!

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting lowan's Everyday Lives



Taylor Button: Never Giving Up

Finishing high school late has taken a lot of dedication. Between working as a full time employee at Jimmy Johns, finishing my diploma, and being a full time single mother of a toddler, it didn't leave much time for anything else. I can admit it has been very hard, but it has also been incredibly rewarding, and I am so glad to be finished!

Unfortunately, when I was 17, a senior in high school, I had to make the tough decision of dropping out in order to work and provide a healthy and safe lifestyle for myself, which at the time I was not being provided with at home.

Unlike most stereotype of drop outs, I was a fully engaged and great student. I got mostly A's and B's in my classes, I enjoyed school very much and I loved learning, as I still do.

My son has been a huge motivation for me to finish high school. He is two and a half and my favorite person in the entire world! I just want to be a good role model for him and provide him with the best life possible.

Another huge motivation for me has been my sobriety. I have been an alcoholic since the age of 17. When I went through those rough times at home, I turned to alcohol to help me cope. I have been sober for almost ten months now, which has helped me get my life back in order and my priorities straight.

Now that I have finished my diploma, my plan is to stay working at Jimmy Johns and possibly start college next year. I am excited to share that I have been promoted to General Manager and am so grateful for all the help and support I have gotten along the way.

I can't thank High School completion and Creating Futures enough for helping me through it along the way, I could not have done it without all the support and encouragement!

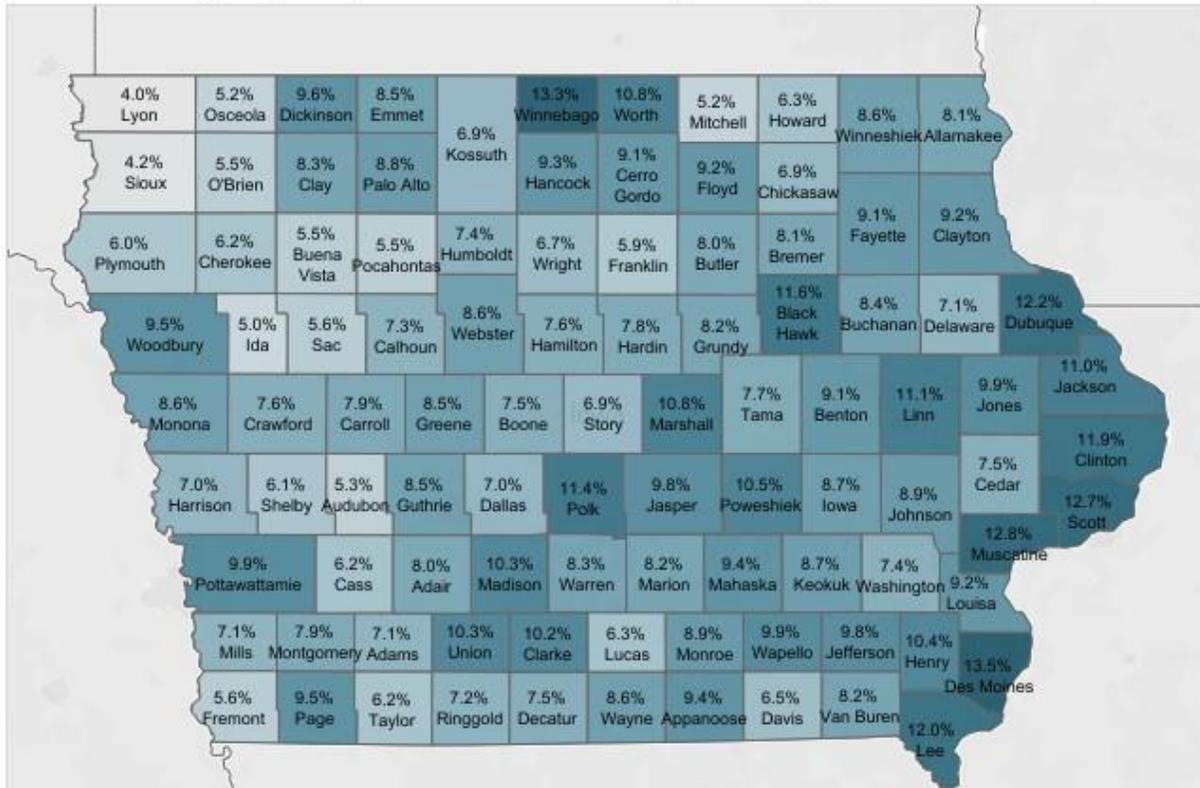
Thank you to Carla Andorf, Dean of Workforce Services at Kirkwood Community College, for sharing this month's success story!

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

May 2020 Iowa Unemployment Rates Drop Slightly, Still Remain High

Map of Unemployment Rate (%) in May 2020 (Statewide: 9.7%)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted) Filter the line chart by selecting counties on the map



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