

THE WIOA CURRENT

≡ A NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA WORKFORCE PARTNERS ≡

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Virtual Professional Development

The National Association of Workforce Boards' StudyWorkForce online learning platform is offering its first online course, **The Case for Strong Workforce Boards and Board Staff**. The course helps board members, staff, and local elected officials understand how to leverage WIOA in support of their workforce and economic development agenda. This free course is an important new tool that helps workforce boards raise the bar on professional development for board members and staff.



Course topics:

- Key Features of WIOA
- Role of CLEO & WDB Members in implementing WIOA
- Benefits of leveraging WIOA to support workforce & economic development agenda

Read more and register for the course here!

Resources Worthy of Your Attention

Investing in America's Workforce: A National Imperative for the 21st Century: National Skills Coalition convened the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW), a diverse coalition of 40 national organizations to call on Congress and the Administration to commit to investing, more broadly and more effectively, in the skills of America's workforce—through our nation's workforce development, youth, adult education, career and technical education, and industry-targeted higher education programs—so that more people can develop market-ready skills to meet the needs of U.S. industries and the larger U.S. economy. **[Read CIAW's 2019 report here!](#)**

Advocating for work-based learning is easy with this Work-Based Learning Policy Toolkit: This toolkit provides resources to state policymakers and advocates on state policies for work-based learning that combines instruction at a worksite with classroom learning. The focus of the toolkit is on paid work-based learning during employment for out-of-school youth and disadvantaged adults. **[The toolkit is available for free here!](#)**

Case Studies in Collaboration

Better Together: How adult ed/CTE collaborations benefit workers and businesses:

Advocates can create new upskilling opportunities, meet local business needs, and streamline training costs by launching partnerships between adult education organizations and Career and Technical Education (CTE) providers. That's the message of National Skills Coalition's new policy brief, *Better Together*. [Find out more and read the Better Together Policy Brief here!](#)

WIOA Success Stories: Impacting Iowan's Everyday Lives



Blake: Overcoming Barriers

In 2015, his senior year at UNI, Blake was diagnosed with Leukemia and underwent hundreds of treatments, ending his successful football career. He was able to graduate with a degree in Biology but spent the majority of the second half of his senior year hospitalized. When his health had improved he decided to return to school and pursue a degree in EMS, which he obtained from Hawkeye Community College in 2017 along with a paramedic

and firefighter certification. He was working with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and they assisted him in getting a job at Martin Brothers.

Blake came into the American Job Center (AJC) in January of 2020 as he had been working part-time at Martin Brothers as a reach truck operator, an entry level position for about 2 years. He felt he was ready to take on more responsibilities and a full-time job. He was planning for his upcoming wedding and purchasing his first house. I told him about the Ticket to Work (TTW) program and how it could help him. His employment goals aligned with the TTW program and he chose to assign his ticket to the Hawkeye Employment Network.

When Blake and I first met, he expressed that he didn't feel that he was reaching his true potential and wanted to utilize the degrees he had earned. He was looking for a position that challenged him and one that would advance his career. He was pretty open to what field that would be in so we did some career exploration, updated his resume and he received in-depth benefits planning from us so he could make informed decisions regarding his career choices. I referred him to several different positions that he was qualified for and assisted him with applying. One of the jobs he applied for was a Routing Specialist Job at his current employer, Martin Brothers. There was a rigorous and competitive application process. He was offered this promotion in early February and started a week after that. Blake and I stay in regular contact. He said there was a lot to learn in the beginning he has successfully settled into a routine and is thriving in his new role.

Thank you to Chris Hannan, Workforce Development Director at Hawkeye Community College (Waterloo, IA), 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: Skills for the Future Workforce



1. **Sense Making:** Ability to determine the deeper meaning or significance of what is being expressed.
2. **Social Intelligence:** Ability to connect with others in a deep and direct way, to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions.
3. **Novel & Adaptive Thinking:** Proficiency at thinking and coming up with solutions and responses beyond that which is routine or rule-based.
4. **Cross-Cultural Competency:** Ability to operate in different cultural settings.
5. **Computational Thinking:** Ability to translate vast amounts of data into abstract concepts and to understand data-based reasoning.
6. **New Media Literacy:** Ability to critically assess and develop content that uses new media forms.
7. **Trans-disciplinary:** Literacy in, and ability to understand concepts across multiple disciplines.
8. **Design mindset:** Ability to represent and develop tasks and work processes for desired outcome.
9. **Cognitive Load Management:** Ability to filter information for importance.
10. **Virtual Collaboration:** Ability to work productively, drive engagement , and demonstrate presence as a member of a virtual team.

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