

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: March 13, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Kent Heronimus – Interstates

IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Rouse-Iowa Workforce Development
Teresa Larson-White – Iowa Workforce Development
Nicolas “Omar” Valentine – Iowa Workforce Development
Tammi Erlbacher – Iowa Workforce Development
Andi Mann – Iowa Workforce Development
Brittney Gutzmann – Iowa Workforce Development
Sara Blair – Country Maid
Randall McQueeney – Iowa Workforce Development
Andi Barnes – Iowa Workforce Development
Kathy Leggett – Iowa Workforce Development
Kristin Russell – American Athletic Inc (Fruit of the Loom Inc)
Kent Heronimus – Interstates
Jamie Wubben – K.C. Nielsen
Pamela Woolridge – Western Iowa Technical Community College (WITCC)
Aaron Merry – Iowa Workforce Development
Theresa Bullock – Iowa Workforce Development
Luke Huggins – McClure Vision

AGENDA

Sector Partnerships - Kathy Legget

- *Presentation Attached*
- Defined as industry specific regional partnerships led by business in partnership with economic development, education and workforce partners (core partners within the centers). Bring together local businesses in industry cluster or occupation on a regional basis to identify regional challenges and develop a strategy to overcome those challenges.
- Want to gain a skilled workforce
- Treat businesses as partners, not the end user – align based on goals
- Convening Team/Core Groups – support champions (businesses leading the efforts)
- Champions invite businesses and lead meetings. Frame with Labor Market Data. Conversations about trends and opportunities, challenges that keep you up at night.
- Workforce, education, chamber, economic development, and other stakeholders attend in **“listen only mode”**
- What is a priority? What is achievable? What is the movement/metric?
- We need that targeted group to be able to focus on a region
- Let's help get a sector partnership going in one of these areas. HIGH NEED AREA with people engaged enough to get it moving

- To get these started we are going to have to explain to the businesses WHY we need it and give them the tools to lead
- Business isn't attending, business is RUNNING
- The model is sound, we just have to have committed facilitation
- Suggestion to do a survey to businesses for their challenges
- If we build the framework, we can figure out what businesses want and have it be part of our model – sustainability
- Playbook is where we need to start. Kathy to connect with Theresa. – Will report back next month.
- **Labor Market Information Dashboard for Iowa Plains by Occupation [Data Visualization: Occupational Projections | Iowa Workforce Development](#)**

OSO Updates – Tammi

- *Report Attached*
- Next month will have Jan-Mar updates.
- Centers continue to provide QR codes and that seems to be successful
- Continue to provide trainings across all partners – relevant & well rounded
- BEC/T1 collaboration meeting continues
- Referrals system in SharePoint is working well – spread out through all services
- Flyer for disability access committee *Attached* - hoping to recruit and engage with businesses about this committee

One Stop Certification Update – Andi/Faith

- Completed and shared – Elizabeth to review and send on

Title I Success Story – Teresa

- Ft Dodge – Medical field (billing and coding). Had an individual went through online program and got a certification. Ended up getting employment with Boone County Hospital in the billing department. Came through originally as a dislocated worker.

Upcoming Events / AJC Updates

- AJC Events
 - Sioux City/Denison: 681 jobs posted in the last 2 weeks – lots of CNA/Maintenance tech positions
 - March 17th Resource Fair- 10-12- Sioux City Public Museum
 - March 18-Ridgeview Career Day- 9AM-American Legion
 - March 23rd- District Career and Academic Plan Meeting at Greene County High School
 - March 26th-Denison In office Job Fair-10-12
 - March 27th- IJAG Presentation at Glidden Ralston High School
 - April 1-IowaWORKS/WITCC Building Trades Job Fair
 - April 8th-IowaWORKS/WITCC Arts and Sciences Job Fair
 - April 15-WITCC Denison-11-1
 - May 14th-Hwy 30 Corridor Job fairs-11-1-looking for location
 - May 18th-Sioux City In office Job Fair-1:30-3:30
 - Fort Dodge/Spencer
 - Council Bluffs/Creston
 - Now doing events in Red Oak and the south/southwestern community
 - Creston gets about 10-15 people every Wednesday.
 - Atlantic public library – public service access hub in rural communities. Started inviting employers and have been getting more success. March & April having more events – Atlantic, Clarinda, etc.

- In-Home care job opportunities are highly available, but pay is not as encouraging
- Resource fair coming up in Harlan & Clarinda
- Making sure the community knows who we are and making connections. Lots more social media appearance – rebranded Creston Facebook page to IowaWORKS Southwestern
- Randall to speak to chamber in the area at a leadership conference about IWD and what we do/how we can all work together

Committee Attendance

- New Members Introduction
 - Jamie Wubben (K.C. Neilsen) – H.R. at K.C. Neilsen which is a John Deere dealership. Been working with students at high schools in the area and providing transportation to the local colleges to show the John Deere tech program what it looks like to work for them.
 - Would like to know what all we have to offer and can gain ideas and take back to her place of business.
 - Chris Wurth (Siouxland Human Investment Partnership)

Committee Member Share – What Workforce Issues are You Experiencing?

- Basic computer skills of the customers we serve. It is very critically needed for the jobs today.
- Ripple effect – lots of time reaching out to elective officials about massive impacts with proposed bills

ACTION PLAN

Next meeting – April 10th, 2026 / 8:30am – 9:30am

Iowa Plains One Stop Operator (OSO) Update

February 2026 Updates

Provided to Committee: 3/13/2026

OSO: Tammi Erlbacher, LifeSkills Connection, Inc.

Monthly Survey Results

- 45 Paper Surveys
- 57 Paper QR Code Surveys
- 19 Statewide Surveys
- **121 Total Surveys**

February Staff/Partner Trainings

- 2/4 Virtual Workshops
- 2/11 2026 Goals
- 2/18 IET Program (Title II)

Core Partner Meeting

- 2/10

Business Engagement Consultant (BEC)/Title I Collaboration Meeting

- 2/3

OSO Center Presence

- 2/3 Denison
- 2/17 Council Bluffs
- 2/25 Denison

Iowa Plains Referrals

- 123 Referrals on Iowa Plains Referral Form-February 2026
 - 2- American Indian Council
 - 17- HSED/ESL
 - 2-IDB
 - 2- Title III
 - 11- IVRS
 - 1-Job Corps
 - 5- SCEP
 - 11- SNAP E&T
 - 2-Ticket to Work-
 - 59- Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker
 - 11- Title I Youth

Sector Partnerships

Defined: Industry specific regional partnerships led by business in partnership with economic development, education and workforce partners.

- Bring together local businesses by industry cluster or occupation on a regional basis to identify regional challenges and develop a strategy to overcome those challenges together.

Sector Partnerships

Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) play a crucial role in sector partnerships by serving as strategic leaders and convener of local workforce development system stakeholders.

Sector Partnerships

Gain a skilled workforce where workers have clear paths to secure high-demand, good paying jobs.

Sector Partnerships

- Put businesses at the center of the conversation
- Treat businesses as partners, not the end user
- Align partners based on identified goals
- Require a credible convener
- Convene at a regional scale that makes sense

Sector Partnerships

- Convening Team/Core Group – a group that is the behind the scenes support for the champions and the strategy.
 - A larger Core Group is made up of economic development, education, workforce partners.
- Champions – Businesses leading the efforts.
- Businesses – small, medium, large ideally represented by senior decision makers.

Sector Partnerships

- Champions invite businesses and lead meetings
- Facilitated conversation around **trends and opportunities** in the region, **challenges that keep you up at night**. These can be framed around labor market data.
- Businesses are asked to validate or dispel the information discussed.
- Workforce, education, chamber, economic development, other stakeholders attend in “**listen only mode**.”

Sector Partnerships

- What goals and opportunities are achievable?
- What are the priorities
- How is movement/success going to be measured?
- Next Steps

Iowa Plains Next Steps

- Committee provide guidance
- Regions/sectors..