



**RWDB Report
March 30, 2017**

Title I Adult and DW

Business Closings

Please report any and all business closings to Chris Hannan or Dustin Brocka no matter the size. Below is a quick overview of recent business closings affecting Region 7.

HGS

They will be closing in 3/3/17 and notifying employees and providing a WARN Notice on 1/3/17 to meet the 60-day notification period. There will be an impact to 150 employees and it will be permanent. Rapid Response events were held in February 2017. Further outreach to affected workers has continued.

Ridgeway Place Assisted Living

Ridgeway Place will be closing permanently. 42 staff were laid off at end of February 2017. An employee informational meeting was held on 1/27/17. Further outreach to affected workers has continued.

Kmart

The projected store closing date will be the end of April 2017.

Staples

Announced they were closing 70 stores in the country. Reached out to Des Moines to request a statewide response to the closing.

Dislocated Worker JD-NEG Grant

- 74 dislocated workers enrolled since beginning of grant
- 45 enrolled in short-term institutional training in high demand industry
- 56 have received some type of additional supportive services
- 8 clients have been placed in OJTs (we are leading the State in OJTs)
- 2 clients have completed their 1040 hour OJT experience.
- 4 clients have been placed in registered apprenticeships.

Success story: DE is a veteran who served in the Iraqi Freedom Campaign with the Iowa National Guard. DE served from November of 2008, until May of 2015. Upon DE's discharge, he began working at Unverferth Manufacturing in Shell Rock, Iowa. Unfortunately, Unverferth closed and the client became a displaced worker. Client reached out to IowaWORKS for employment assistance and was co-enrolled into Adult, DW, SP, and JDNEG. DE was also co-enrolled in DEI as he has a 30% service related disability.

Job searches were done and a placement was found at Pries Enterprise Inc. in Independence, Iowa, where the client was hired to be a quality control and safety manager for the plant that manufactures extruded aluminum products. DE was placed on an OJT and has been able to perform his job without any accommodations related to his service disability. DE has since, successfully completed his 1040 hours OJT, and is now enrolled in classes related to quality control and safety management.



Trade Adjustment Assistance

Ocwen

- 122 currently utilizing classroom training
- 7 have graduated from their classroom training and found employment
- 3 additional classroom training requests are in progress
- 1 current On-the-Job training
- 20 utilizing RTAA/ATAA
- 1 RTAA in progress

Several of the participants from 2014 and 2015 layoffs will be completing their classroom training programs in May/June 2017. We are actively assisting this group in finding employment.

DEI/T2W

- 115 people currently being served through Ticket to Work. 29 are currently reporting to be working.
- We average about 20 possible ticket assignments every month.
- A Basic Info Session on TTW has been designed and will be presented once monthly to disseminate information to potential recipients.
- Region 7 is the leader for the 2nd quarter in a row for TTW incentives. The second quarter for 2017 we have incentives that have totaled \$48,444.00.
- 10 people are co-enrolled with DEI and other programs.

Title I Youth/Young Adult Program

Planning to fill Patti Mohling's position due to her retirement in the coming weeks.

Updates:

- 22 WEP's have started in PY 16
- Currently we have 6 out of school and 2 in school WEP's in progress.
- Staff are serving on the Advisory Committee for the Waterloo Youth Jobs Initiative headed up by Waterloo's Mayor, Quentin Hart.

Title II Adult Education and Literacy

Open Competition for Federal AEL Funding:

- For the first time ever, Iowa will have an open competition for the federal funds allocated to provide AEL services.
- Timeline for application for funds is attached. Key dates:
 - March 1, 2017: Changes to Local Plan Submitted (Additional AEL information was included and a section detailing how due process for AEL funds will be implemented was added.)
 - March 15, 2017: RFP for Title II AEL funds released
 - March 28, 2017: Bidder's Conference in Des Moines; Sandy Jensen, Laura Hidlebaugh, Constance Grimm to attend



- May 1, 2017: Applications for Title II Funds due
- Note May dates for Board action needed: review and recommendation on AEL applications
- June 10, 2017: Title II Providers Announced

I-BEST:

- WIOA includes mandate for IET (Integrated Education and Training). I-BEST is a strong example of one way to provide IET.
- Iowa Department of Education held a workshop on providing IET on March 1, 2017 in Des Moines. Over 40 staff persons from Title I and Title II across Iowa attended. Hawkeye I-BEST instructors Jennette Shepard and Lucas Plouff presented via Zoom and Sandy Jensen presented in person. Handout attached.
- Feb 23, 2017 Waterloo Courier featured an article about the new adult learning center that Hawkeye is building downtown. The article included interviews with Dr. Linda Allen, Sandy Jensen, I-BEST instructor Jennette Shepard, and a student who completed CNA I-BEST fall 2016.
- Hawkeye's Career Focus publication, Spring 2017 edition featured an article that includes info on I-BEST. Copies of publication provided at RWDB meeting.

Community College Day at the State Capitol

Representatives from Iowa's community colleges gathered at the State Capitol in Des Moines on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to showcase their impact on students and Iowa's economy.

Hawkeye highlighted the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) program, which currently includes CNC and CNA pathways at the Metro Center. Instructors Jennette Shepard and Lucas Plouff joined students Junior Richard Kamanda Naninzeye, Christie Hernandez, Richard Manoka, and Don'Trell Burt to talk about the program with local legislators.



Handout provided to legislators attached.

High School Completion (HSC) classes

- Quarter 4 start date March 20, 2017. Classes end in May; 3-week interim term offered May/June.
- We were able to place all students from the AM wait list and all but 10 from PM wait list into Quarter 4 classes.
- Classes are full. Ten students are on wait list for evening classes; zero currently on AM wait list; anticipate students will be added to both wait lists before new academic year starts August 2017.
- July summer session available to current students; offered mornings only.
- Enrollment: 317 fall semester; 131 additional spring semester; 448 total for 2016-2017 academic year
- Of the 448 students enrolled, 49 are functioning at high school level in reading and/or math; the remainder are functioning below high school level and need to improve their skills in order to attain HSED completion (HSED = High School Equivalency Diploma)
- Number of HSEDs completed so far this year: 16

English Language Learning (ELL) classes

- Spring semester currently in session; ends in May.



- Classes are full and there is a wait list at current time.
- July summer session available to current students; offered mornings only. Next intake of new students will be when 2017-18 academic year begins in August.
- Enrollment: 436 fall semester; 566 spring semester

Class sizes in both the HSC and ELL programs are over capacity in order to accommodate local need as much as possible. Classes are free to students and are financed by grants, federal and state AEL funding, and Hawkeye's general fund.

Title III

Business Services Team

The Region 7 Business Service Team has been supporting the Unemployment Customer Service Line but as of March 17th Mary Traywick will be the only staff in the local office continuing with this. The team in Des Moines has been short staffed and very busy, so All District Managers were asked to support the call line with additional staff.

Team Lead Debra Hodges-Harmon was asked to set on the Mayor's Advisory Youth Committee with Michelle Clark and will continue to assist in connecting employers and youth for employment for the summer.

Jennifer Gray is in the process finalizing plans to go into the Waterloo High Schools eight hours a week to assist students with job readiness skills and using the Future Ready Iowa website.

Lacie Westendorf sits on the Social Media and Marketing committee in Des Moines and is working with the Communications team on the rebranding of IowaWORKS and Iowa Workforce Development.

March 7th IowaWORKS Cedar Valley and the Greater Cedar Valley Chamber and Alliance hosted the spring 2017 Hiring Event due to several companies in the Cedar Valley closing. We had 61 companies and schools attend and 158 people came through the event. We are aware of 4 direct hires due to this event and many more interviews that were set up.

March 9th IowaWORKS Cedar Valley took part in a Veterans Hiring Event and USERRA training and thirty one companies from the Cedar Valley participated.

Douglas Marshall attended the Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training, New Castle, IND Feb. 19-24 and visited Newton Correction and Release Center campus, March 09 to practice the assessments that were taught in the first training.

Business services lead a Minority Hiring discussion with workforce partners, business leaders, economic development, and elected officials. This discussion will feed into further discussion locally as Waterloo was selected by Governor Branstad as one of his 4 communities in Iowa to lower minority unemployment by 5% in 5 years.

Below is a list of planned events for 2017 that the BSR team has planned:



- March 23, 2017 - Construction hiring event Waterloo Center for the Arts
- March 29, 2017 - Hawkeye Community College Job Fair
- April 20th, 2017 - Employer Summit “Maximizing Talents and Minimizing Risk Part 2” at Hawkeye Community College
- May 4, 2017 - Reverse Hiring Ex-Offenders
- June 2017 - Summer 2017 Hiring Event in Waverly

Title IV

People with Disabilities Twice as Likely to be Employed in Some States as Others

Washington, D.C., Feb. 24 – As governors convene in Washington, D.C., for the 2017 National Governors Association Winter Meeting, Americans with disabilities are finding their economic outcomes vary greatly based on where they live. For example, 57.1 percent of working-age people with disabilities in Wyoming have jobs, while only 24.4 percent of people with disabilities in West Virginia are employed.

According to the newly released 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, only 34.9 percent of U.S. civilians with disabilities ages 18-64 living in the community nationally had a job in 2015, compared to 76.0 percent for people without disabilities. Out of almost 20 million working age people with disabilities, only 7.1 million people with disabilities have a job. Millions who would rather be working are living on government benefits instead.

However, looking at national statistics only tells part of the story facing millions of job seekers with disabilities who want to become independent and earn an income. Digging into the data compiled by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) actually shows serious differences in employment outcomes at the state level. In fact, there are some states where people with disabilities are twice as likely to be employed as in other states. Wyoming leads the nation with 57.1 percent of their citizens with disabilities employed.

Wyoming is followed by the Dakotas where 51.7 percent of South Dakotans with disabilities have a job and 48.6 percent of North Dakotans with disabilities are employed. Other top 10 states include Nebraska with a 48.6 employment rate for people with disabilities, Minnesota (47.5), Iowa (46.3), Utah (45.8), Kansas (42.8), Alaska (42.6) and Wisconsin (41.2).

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker consistently has championed the issue of jobs for people with disabilities both in his past State of the State Addresses and in public appearances throughout the state. In particular, Walker consistently has worked hard to expand the number of highly successful Project Search sites in his state, providing youth with intellectual and development disabilities opportunities to successfully transition from school to work. Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation supports 6 Project Search sites including one in Waterloo, Iowa at Unity Point Health – Allen Hospital.

Table 1 – Top 10 States for Workers with Disabilities					
State Ranking	State	Total # of PwDs (Aged 18-64)	# of PwDs Employed	Total # Jobs Gained + or Lost –	Percentage of PwDs Employed



1	WY	37,643	21,508	+ 4,042	57.1 %
2	SD	51,131	26,419	+ 339	51.7 %
3	ND	38,112	18,582	- 414	48.8 %
4	NE	101,734	49,485	+ 2,194	48.6 %
5	MN	297,630	141,257	+ 12,652	47.5 %
6	IA	180,139	83,391	+ 1,280	46.3 %
7	UT	155,508	71,185	+ 6,085	45.8 %
8	KS	184,791	79,132	+ 2,570	42.8 %
9	AK	47,039	19,951	+ 1,741	42.6 %
10	WI	351,787	144,815	+ 4,327	41.2 %

Waterloo Launches Innovated Job Fair Concept

This is the first reverse job fair for people with disabilities in the Cedar Valley! Find out how IVRS and our Project SEARCH partners are implementing ways to help individuals with disabilities find and maintain employment. A reverse job fair connects business and industry to potential candidates. Instead of the business having a booth, our job candidates will have ‘the spotlight’ to showcase and highlight their skills for potential employers.

For the past 9 months, multiple area businesses and agencies have created an internship program catered to students with disabilities. These entities include Unity Point Health-Allen Hospital, Waterloo Community Schools, Inclusion Connection, and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation. The purpose of the internship program is to prepare students for competitive employment. Students participate in 3 different internship rotations working in various areas of the hospital: nutrition and dining, environmental services, guest relations, durable medical equipment, in-patient rehabilitation, and distribution.

Project SEARCH is asking area businesses and organizations to attend the reverse job fair on Tuesday, March 28th, to meet our student interns and consider them for employment opportunities. A one-hour commitment is requested from each employer. We are excited to bring this FREE event to the Cedar Valley! We invite you to come meet students preparing themselves for job opportunities in the Cedar Valley!

Where: Entrance 1
 Unity Point Health-Allen Hospital
 1825 Logan Avenue
 Waterloo, IA 50703



Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Time: 9:30AM – 11:30AM

Contact: Michael Howell, IVRS Supervisor
(319) 234-0319 or email Michael.Howell@Iowa.gov

Attachments Below