



*Geared Toward The Future*

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS **WORKS**

# Annual Report 2012 - 2013



## **NCI Works Mission Statement**

Northwest Central Illinois Works' mission is to work hand-in-hand with business, service, government, education and non-profit organizations to enable workers to work and businesses to compete.

### **Goals:**

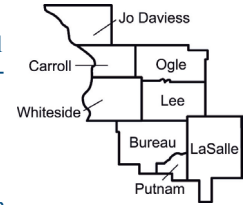
1. Identify and respond to employer needs related to its workforce
2. Educate and train a workforce to prepare them for the globally competitive marketplace
3. Remove barriers to employment
4. Expand community awareness of workforce and economic development efforts and issues
5. Obtain, coordinate and maximize resources to support workforce and economic development



*Welcome ...*

2013 was a year of new places, new faces, and new issues facing our Workforce Investment area, which doubled in size and now encompasses eight counties: Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam, and Whiteside. It has been a year of transition. Much work has been done to create a new NCI Works Board representative of the counties and business sectors in the counties. NCI WORKS staff have worked extremely hard to develop policies and plans to provide direction for the new Northwest Central Illinois Works, while also still ensuring the important work has gone on uninterrupted.

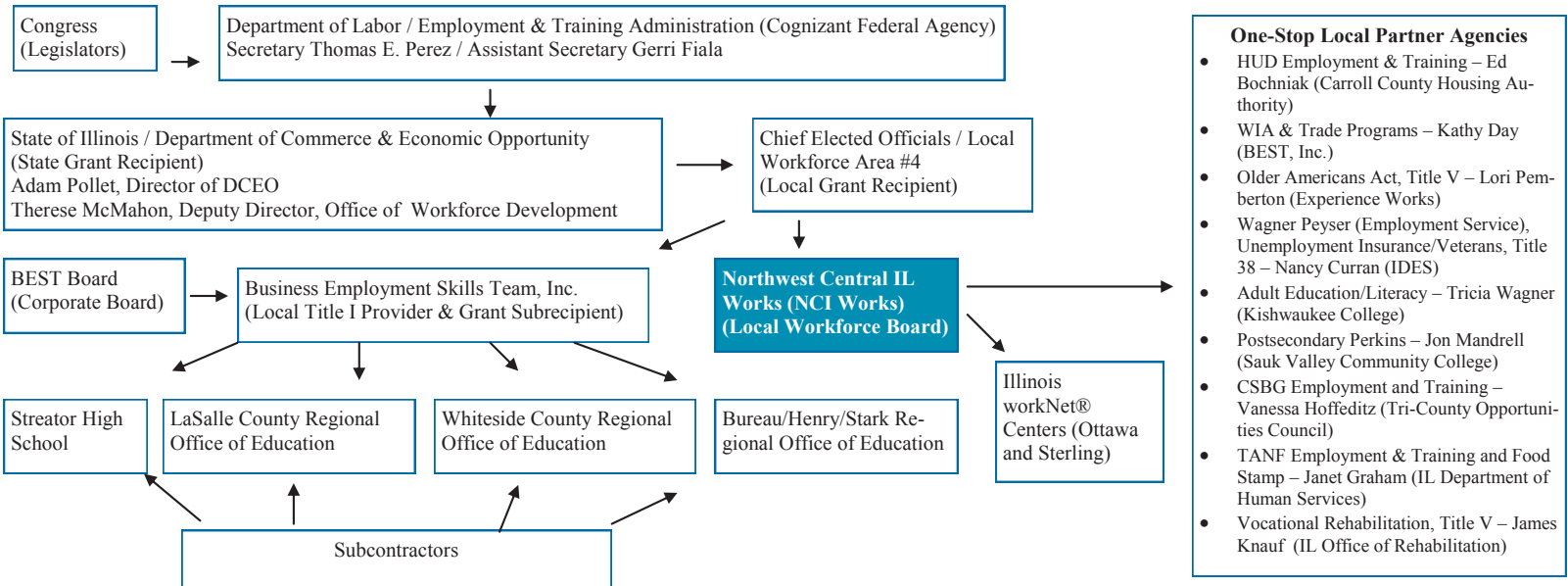
The challenges facing both employers and prospective employees remain the same. Technology has changed the skill sets required of our workforce, and the challenge of preparing incumbent workers to fill the roles demanded by employers to compete in a global economy has never been more important. At the same time, reductions in funding due to the economic climate has made the consolidation of two WIBs into a larger one a very smart, proactive decision.



This annual report showcases just a few of the success stories.

Linda Burt, Co-Chair

Cary Robbins, Co-Chair



- One-Stop Local Partner Agencies**
- HUD Employment & Training – Ed Bochniak (Carroll County Housing Authority)
  - WIA & Trade Programs – Kathy Day (BEST, Inc.)
  - Older Americans Act, Title V – Lori Pemberton (Experience Works)
  - Wagner Peyser (Employment Service), Unemployment Insurance/Veterans, Title 38 – Nancy Curran (IDES)
  - Adult Education/Literacy – Tricia Wagner (Kishwaukee College)
  - Postsecondary Perkins – Jon Mandrell (Sauk Valley Community College)
  - CSBG Employment and Training – Vanessa Hoffeditz (Tri-County Opportunities Council)
  - TANF Employment & Training and Food Stamp – Janet Graham (IL Department of Human Services)
  - Vocational Rehabilitation, Title V – James Knauf (IL Office of Rehabilitation)

## 2012/2013 Years in Review

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual “Work in the Real World” Reaches Over 330 Students

- Sauk Valley Community College (November 2, 2012: 35 businesses, 161 students, 11 schools
- LaSalle County (November 13, 2013): 175 students toured 4 companies
- Based on evaluations both events were a success
- Sponsored by NCI Works, BEST, Inc., SRAVTE, IVCC, SVCC, Whiteside Area Career Center, and Partners for Employment

### NCI Works’ Affiliates Host Two Job Fairs

- BEST, Inc., IVCC/Dislocated Worker Center, Illinois Department of Employment Security/Veterans Services, and Experience Works sponsored at Ottawa One-Stop Center
- May 30, 2012: 19 businesses, 236 job seekers
- September 13, 2012: 28 businesses, 305 job seekers

### NCI Works Joins Great Rivers Consortium to Apply for Grant

- NCI Works along with 5 other workforce boards applied for \$4M grant to serve 68 “at-risk” manufacturing companies to help stabilize them and avoid layoffs
- Local partners were recruited to assist in making referrals of appropriate businesses
- Federal and local elected officials endorsed the application
- Application was not selected for funding

### IVCC Member of Illinois Community College Consortium that Receives Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career and Training (TAACCCT) Advanced Manufacturing Grant

- Twenty-one colleges received total of \$12.9M from grant
- Purpose to expand and improve the colleges’ ability to deliver education and training program leading to industry-recognized certificates/degrees that lead to high-skilled/high-wage manufacturing occupations

### NCI Works Hosts 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Employer Conference

- August 15, 2012 at IVCC with 48 individuals in attendance
- Speakers included AJ Hauser, Randy Otto, Dave Smith, and Stephanie Handler
- Topics included an employment law update, use of social media in business, succession planning, and a presentation on DePue’s Certificate of Employability

### Founder of Bridge Youth Project Honored Founder of Bridge Youth Project Honored

- The late Jack Wilson, Streator High School teacher and founder of The Bridge Program was honored with the naming of the Jack Wilson Academy
- The Jack Wilson Academy houses all alternative education programs at Streator High School (SHS)
- BEST and SHS, with Jack taking the lead, had served over 100 youth through The Bridge Program at Streator High School
- The Bridge Program gives youth a second chance at completing their high school education and finding a job

### BEST, Inc. Recognizes Local Manufacturers on National Manufacturing Day

- BEST sent a congratulatory email to all local manufacturers to celebrate this day of recognition
- National Manufacturing Day highlights the significant contribution manufacturing make to the US economy and showcased the highly-skilled jobs available
- Transco Products hosted company tour, open to the public, in celebration of the day and Pam Furlan was in attendance for it

### President Corcoran Joins the NACCE National Entrepreneurship forum

- Dr. Jerry Corcoran, President of Illinois Valley Community College, joined the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Forum of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE)
- Through this program, community college presidents commit to increase the focus on entrepreneurship at their institutions
- NCI Works recognized Dr. Corcoran’s commitment to promoting economic development throughout the IVCC district

### Youth Council Initiative Addresses Issues Facing Local Youth

- Youth Council laid out framework for a program to address career preparation and life skills through the Safe School and Circuit Breaker School
- Administrator at both schools felt this type of program would be beneficial to their students
- Youth Council members each identified services/program they could contribute to the program’s menu

### **The North Central Illinois Logistics Council (NCILC) Implements New Format**

- In its 6<sup>th</sup> year, NCILC provides local logistics companies networking opportunities, a forum to educate the public and future workforce about logistics and brings in expert speakers to help develop a quality workforce
- The council has experienced an increase in attendance since moving from a meeting format to a program format
- Recent programs have included: Managing Workers' Compensation, Reducing Risk and Avoiding Injuries in the Workplace, Continuous Improvement, and Turning Managers into Leaders

### **Chief Manufacturing Executive (CME) Group Continues**

- In its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, CME brings together executives from 12 to 14 local manufacturers to discuss topics/issues relevant to their operations
- The CME Group has been a key resource for input on the manufacturing grants NCI Works and IVCC have been working on (INAM and Workforce Innovation Fund Grant/ Central Illinois Regional Manufacturing Initiative)

### **“Just Hire One” Launched in LaSalle County**

- Developed with the collaboration of 5 area chambers (IL River Area Chamber of Commerce (IRACC), IL Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (IVAC), Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce (OAC), and Streator Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SACCI) and endorsed by the LaSalle County Board
- Based on premise being that if participating businesses would hire just one more applicant we could impact the county's unemployment rate
- Job Fair held February 20, 2013 with 30 businesses, 353 job seekers and 157 confirmed hires
- Bureau and Putnam County will be the site of the next “Just Hire One” Job Fair

### **Local IDES Associates Honored for Outstanding Services to Veterans**

- IDES at the Ottawa One-Stop honored with both state and national recognition for their work with Veterans
- Specifically these awards were for outstanding and distinguished Services and Employment Opportunities for Unemployed and Underemployed Veterans and for contributing to the Economic Programs of the American Legion
- Individual staff were also recognized for their work with Veterans including: Phil Harth (former Employment Services Program Rep), John Lewis (Disabled Outreach Program) and Mick Mills (retired Monitoring Local Office Veteran)
- NCI Works congratulates our partner on jobs well-done

### **NCI Works Invited to Join Consortium For Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Grant/Central Illinois Regional manufacturing Initiative**

- NCI Works invited by IVCC (Sue Isermann) to participate in a consortium, along with the Peoria, Bloomington/Pekin, and Galesburg workforce areas, to apply for funding from the DOL Workforce Innovation Fund
- Purpose is to provide innovative training along with work-based learning to adults, dislocated workers and Veterans
- Would serve 100 candidate and the total budget would be just under \$1.1M
- Twenty-five counties, 7 community colleges and several businesses involved in the scope of the grant which expires June 30, 2014

### **Consolidation of WIAs**

- Effective July 1, 2013 Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) #12 and 4 of the 5 counties in LWIA #4 merge
- BEST, Inc. now covers Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties
- Merger results in all Workforce Investment Act and Trade Adjustment Assistance Act services being administered under the direction of one agency
- All staff from BEST, Inc., IVCC/Dislocated Worker Center and Partners for Employment who applied for positions under the new structure were offered positions and all but one accepted

### **Economic Impact on the Communities**

Individuals who were exited 4/1/2012-3/31/2013

Adults	62 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$ 2,084,172.54
Average Annual Wages	\$ 33,615.68

Dislocated Workers	268 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$ 7,960,096.74
Average Annual Wages	\$ 29,701.86

*Note: This data simply reflects the impact of our successful job seekers on the local economy and is not intended to be a return on investment report.*

This chart represents the number of area students enrolled in training institutions receiving financial support from NCI Works during July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013 for the newly merged Local Workforce Investment Area #4.

Institution	Number of Enrollees	Money Provided to Institution for Tuition
Black Hawk College	1	\$ 11,302.00
DeVry University	1	\$ 642.00
Hamilton Technical College	3	\$ 10,925.00
Highland Community College	117	\$ 228,260.00
Illinois Valley Community College	154	\$ 335,000.18
Kishwaukee College	26	\$ 13,977.50
OSF St. Francis Medical Center	1	\$ 3,466.00
Rock Valley College	1	\$ 13,619.00
Rockford Career College	1	\$ 6,205.00
Rx Technician Preparatory School	1	\$ 4,010.00
St. Anthony College of Nursing	1	\$ 977.00
Sauk Valley Community College	129	\$ 237,261.05
Waubousee Community College	5	\$ 1,417.10
Western IL University	4	\$ 3,029.00
<b>Students enrolled during Program Year 2012 (7/1/2012—6/30/2013)</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>\$ 870,090.83</b>

## Individual Achievement Award



**Rebecca Malawy** contacted BEST Inc. in Dixon in the Fall of 2010. Like many families at that time, it was a struggle for Rebecca and her husband to support their three young children due to the sliding economy. Concerned about the future, Rebecca decided to return to school to pursue the RN degree she had always wanted.

It was suggested to Rebecca that she contact BEST Inc. to see if it was possible to get financial assistance with her commuting costs, tuition, books and child care. She explained her situation to a Career Advisor in the Dixon BEST office, completed the lengthy application process and was found to be an excellent candidate for BEST's training program. She and her husband worked hard to establish a budget that would work for the family while she attended school, and Rebecca was accepted into the program at Sauk Valley Community College.

It was difficult to manage school, work, family and finances but Rebecca proved it was possible. She earned excellent grades and references from her clinical instructors and was a favorite among her fellow students. Upon completion of her program, she was hired as a Psychiatric Nurse at KSB Hospital in Dixon, IL. It was an unusual position for a first-time nurse to attain but Rebecca's older age, her proven ability to manage school, work and family and her excellent references made her a perfect candidate.

Rebecca plans to continue her education by earning her bachelor's degree and is excited about the many possibilities that her new career will bring. She is very appreciative for the assistance and support that she received from BEST.

## Individual Achievement Award



**Derek Dudley** of Rock Falls was working at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Sterling, but lost his job in June of 2012. He and his two children had to move in with his sister and her husband due to his employment situation. He wanted to find a job which would help him support his family and decided that a career change was in order. He chose to pursue a career in the health care field as a licensed practical nurse.

Derek came to the Sterling one-stop to inquire about training services that he was eligible to receive. He had applied and was accepted into the LPN program at Black Hawk College in Moline, but knew it would be difficult to come up with the money to pay for the tuition, fees, books, transportation, and other required costs to complete the program. Fortunately, Derek was eligible to receive WIA services as an income-eligible adult.

Through WIA funding, our agency was able to help Derek with all of his training-related costs at Black Hawk. Derek drove over 400 miles each week back and forth from Rock Falls to Moline to attend class and clinicals. We were also able to help him with some of those transportation expenses.

Derek successfully completed the LPN program in May of 2013 and then passed the state and national licensing exams and is now certified to work as a practical nurse. In August of 2013, he was hired by Liberty Village in Princeton, IL to work as a licensed practical nurse.

## Individual Achievement Award



**Helen Krieger** had worked for several years as a Resident Coordinator at an assisted living facility, when, in early 2011, she was notified that her position was being eliminated in a corporate downsizing.

After a frustrating several months of job searching, Helen inquired about the Dislocated Workers program. After meeting with a case manager, Helen began considering re-training, however was hesitant about entering into training at her age. After some time to think about it, she met with college counselors to enroll in the Graphic Design Program at Illinois Valley Community College.

Helen's initial hesitation about going back to school was soon replaced by dedication to her training, and she earned A's in all her classes. While in training Helen was also recognized for participation in projects. She submitted her work to the Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation student design competition which was showcased at the McCormick Place exhibition center in Chicago. Helen received a second place award and a check for \$1,500 for her efforts. In May of 2013, Helen graduated Summa Cum Laude with an AAS in Graphic Design Technology. Today Helen is employed and using her design degree.



**AJ Hauser,**  
Hauser Design  
Group, presents  
a Social Media  
presentation at  
the 2012  
*Employers  
Conference*



### Business Leadership Award

Over the years LaSalle County Broadcasting has been a valuable asset to workforce development and a cornerstone in showcasing area small businesses. As a member of the LWIB, John Spencer has been a valuable contributor to the Business Liaison and Marketing Committee. His assistance helped

establish, improve and promote NCI Work's social media and its content. John has also been instrumental in providing promotional opportunities for our core services, web-based services and job fairs through Public Service Announcements and personal interviews.

When it comes to promoting area small business, LaSalle County Broadcasting has provided the platform for showcasing area businesses through its Bridal Fair, Home and Garden Show and Taste of Home Show. As a member of various LaSalle County chambers of commerce, LaSalle County Broadcasting has taken an important role in those chambers' leads and referral organizations sharing business leads with other area business with the expectation that those leads will end in a monetary transaction for the receiving business thereby helping others to build their business through this networking opportunity.

Whether through its involvement with the local WIB or its promotion of local businesses, LaSalle County Broadcasting has made significant contributions to the viability of LaSalle County. By making job seekers aware of area resources, connecting job seekers to businesses, and connecting businesses to businesses LaSalle County Broadcasting has demonstrated a commitment to being one of the Illinois Valley's leaders in economic and workforce development.

### Chief Elected Officials for WIA #4

*Represented by:*

Dale Anderson, Chairman  
Bureau County Board

Robert Albrecht  
Bureau County Board Member

Kevin Reibel, Chairman  
Carroll County Board

Ron Smith, Chairman  
Jo Daviess County Board

Jerry Hicks, Chairman  
LaSalle County Board

Joe Panzica  
LaSalle County Board Member

Rick Ketchum, Chairman  
Lee County Board

Kim Gouker, Chairman  
Ogle County Board

Duane Calbow, Chairman  
Putnam County Board

William Holmes  
Putnam County Board Member

James Duffy, Chairman  
Whiteside County Board

For information regarding the Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) or any of their initiatives and/or projects, contact:

**Pam Furlan, Executive Director/LWIB/Programs**

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. • 3691 Cougar Drive, Unit B  
Peru, IL 61354

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Visit us at [www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org)

## 2013 Northwest Central Illinois Works Membership

**James A. Andreoni**

*Attorney At Law*  
Perona, Peterlin, Andreoni & Brolley, LLC

**Dave Argubright**

*Business Agent, Carpenters Local #195*  
Illinois Valley Building Trades

**Doug Bergren**

*Consultant and Business Owner*  
Main Street Consulting

**Ed Bochniak**

*Executive Director*  
Carroll County Housing Authority

**Mary Boogemans**

*H.R. Generalist II*  
Advantage Logistics

**Kathy Brady**

*Health & Safety Manager*  
Owens-Illinois

**Linda Burt**

*Vice President of Quality & Community Services*  
St. Margaret's Health

**James Carlson**

*Superintendent*  
Seneca High School

**Vicki Carlson**

*Vice President*  
Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce

**Debbie Clausen**

*HR Administrator*  
LMK Technologies

**Dr. Jerry Corcoran**

*President*  
Illinois Valley Community College

**Nancy Curran**

*IDES Office Manager*  
IL Department of Employment Security

**Kathy Day**

*Executive Director/Fiscal Operations*  
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.

**Monte Flack**

*Supervisor*  
Mid-American Growers

**Janet Graham**

*Local Office Administrator*  
IL Dept. of Human Services

**Linda K. Hessenberger**

*Mortgage Underwriter/Originator*  
First State Bank of Mendota

**Vanessa Hoffeditz**

*Community Services Coordinator*  
Tri-County Opportunities Council

**David Howell**

*Vice President / Internal Auditor*  
The First National Bank in Amboy

**Deana Jones**

*Staffing and Training Coordinator*  
Wahl Clipper Corporation

**Dr. Joe Kanosky**

*President*  
Highland Community College

**Barbara Majeski**

*Branch Manager*  
Manpower

**Amy Liebing**

*Human Resource Administrator*  
Sensient Flavors

**Kevin Lindeman**

*Economic Development District Director/Sr Planner*  
North Central Illinois Council of Governments

**James Knauf**

*Public Service Administrator*  
Illinois Department of Human Services

**Jon Mandrell**

*Dean of Instructional Service*  
Sauk Valley Community College

**Tom McCawley**

*Human Resource Director*  
CGH Medical Center

**David Mennie**

*Business Owner*  
Mennie Machine Company

**Jean Millar**

*Owner*  
Dixon Floral

**Bill Norden**

*Manager*  
Manlius/Walnut Crop Production Services

**Mark Orr**

*General Manager*  
Ag View Farm Supply

**Joseph Panzica**

LaSalle County Board

**Lori Pemberton**

*Employment & Training Coordinator*  
Experience Works, Inc

**Mike Phalen**

*Owner / Partner*  
Phalen Steel Construction Company

**Thomas Pigati**

*Owner*  
Pigati Builders, Inc.

**Cary Robbins**

*Manager of Human Resources*  
Sterling Steel Company, LLC

**Kevin Reibel**

Carroll County Board Chair

**Jennifer Robbins**

*Manager of Human Resources*  
Dura Auto

**Mary Schultz**

*Owner*  
Shultz Appliances

**John Spencer**

*Vice President Operations*  
LaSalle County Broadcasting Corporation

**Betty Steinert**

*Administrator*  
Whiteside County Economic Development

**Teresa Strum**

*Center Director*  
AHEC

**Mark Szula**

*Business Representative*  
International Local Union No. 150

**Tricia Wagner**

*Director Adult Education*  
Kishwaukee College

**Gerald Waszkowiak**

*Director*  
American Nickeloid

**James Weed**

*HR Manager*  
PNC Inc.

**DeAnne White**

*Director of Operations/HR*  
Sinnissippi Centers

**Theresa Wittenauer**

*Executive Director*  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Prepared by the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee of NCI Works!  
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