



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Fall 2014

The Workforce Board covering Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee,
Ogle, Putnam, and Whiteside Counties

CELEBRATING MANUFACTURING!!!

AREA EVENTS FOCUS ON MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES

Events being planned at Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) and Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) will highlight the opportunities available to our emerging workforce. At SVCC, the college is partnering with area industry and Whiteside Area Career Center to offer a “National Manufacturing Day” event on October 24 for area 9th graders. According to Jon Mandrell, Dean of Instructional Service at SVCC, “Our goal is two-fold: to reach parents and also to reach our future manufacturing professionals. Our first step is to host a parents’ night event regarding the great opportunities in manufacturing in the Sauk Valley region and the educational pathways for their son/daughter. This will be held sometime in late September/early October. Then, at SVCC on October 24, we will host the 9th graders to hear from a speaker about the exciting opportunities, then board several buses to tour local industries. Students would then return for lunch and a panel of professionals in the field. The day will conclude with an expo of local industries for the students to explore.” Participating companies for the SVCC event include: FRANTZ Manufacturing, Astec Mobile Screens, Borg Warner, Sewer Equipment, UPM Raflatec, Raynor, Sterling Steel, Wahl Clipper.

Within the Illinois Valley Community College district, the 2014 North Central Illinois Discover Manufacturing Career Expo will be from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22. According to Matt Baker, “the full-day event will bring students from 13 area high schools to tour local manufacturers and to Illinois Valley Community College’s new Peter Miller Community Technology Center. While touring the manufacturing locations students will see first-hand the multitude of career opportunities available in the modern manufacturing industry. Afterwards the students will tour IVCC’s new facility while learning about post-high school education opportunities that could prepare them for careers in manufacturing. They also will have additional opportunities to speak with representatives of the participating manufacturing companies. Ten local manufacturers are participating in the Expo this year. Jim Blass, Director of Global Product Validation at Caterpillar Inc., will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Expo.”

Both events will highlight the changes that have taken place in manufacturing over the last 30+years, and the excellent opportunities manufacturing has to offer our emerging workforce.



@NCIWorks

Also in This Issue:

- October 3, 2014 “National Manufacturing Day”
- Spotlight on NCI Works Representatives from Manufacturing
 - Summer Youth Employment Program
 - Local Labor Market Information Updates

October 3, 2014 *IS* National Manufacturing Day

Friday, October 3 manufacturers across the nation will be celebrating the uniqueness and durability of our manufacturing sector. National Manufacturing Day is designed to enhance the image of manufacturing and to make people aware of the opportunities available in manufacturing, including high tech and high paying opportunities. Our local partners are doing their part in increasing awareness. Information on training opportunities and more on this national movement can be found by following the these links:

National Manufacturing Day: <http://www.mfgday.com>

Illinois Valley Community College: <http://catalog.ivcc.edu/search/?P=manufacturing&hasfs=1&page=1>

Sauk Valley Community College:

https://search.svcc.edu/search?site=catalog&q=manufacturing&client=default_frontend&output=xml_no_dtd&proxystylesheet=default_frontend&btnG=

Highland Community College: http://www.highland.edu/site_search.asp?q=manufacturing

The face of manufacturing has changed over the years and will continue to change and offer high tech opportunities for area residents. Training at our local community colleges provide the chance for the skills needed to this ever changing industry and to grow with the changes that are yet to come.



NCI Works and IVCC Partner to Facilitate Chief Manufacturing Executive's Group

NCI Works is partnering with Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) to facilitate a group of Chief Manufacturing Executives (CME) from within the IVCC district. The purpose of this group is to network, exchange best practices, and discuss challenges currently being faced by the manufacturing industry. Another task being taken on by the CME group will be to coordinate information on manufacturing initiatives being conducted within the IVCC district. The group will then examine those initiatives to identify any gaps and/or duplication. NCI Works will serve as a clearinghouse to collect information on initiatives that have been taking place, or currently in process, and those involved in these initiatives are invited to submit their information by contacting a BEST, Inc. Business Relations Representative closest to them. In LaSalle and Putnam County please contact Joel Torbeck at 815-224-7930 (email at joel_torbeck@best-inc.org) and in Bureau County contact Beth Heaton at 815-872-0255 (email at beth_heaton@best-inc.org).

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the CME group should contact Pam Furlan (Executive Director LWIB/Programs, BEST, Inc.) at 815-224-7930 or Jennifer Scheri (IVCC, Business Training Office) at 815-224-0390.



Member Spotlight

Gerald Waszkowiak: American Nickeloid



What is your professional background? *Manufacturing Management. Retired as General Manager of American Nickeloid Co., Peru, IL. Currently serving on the Board of Directors American Nickeloid Company*

What made you decide to volunteer to serve on a workforce board? *I was asked by a number of manufacturing leaders to serve on the Workforce Board to advocate for private sector manufacturing issues.*

How long have you been a board member? *Fifteen Years*

As you have served and learned more and more about the Workforce Investment Act (and maybe even its predecessors) what do you see as the main value of our federal program? *Providing support and programs to aid employers in securing and retaining skilled employees. Provide training and programs to individuals seeking employment and those persons wanting to improve their job skills to secure better jobs.*

NCI Works Recognizes the following Manufacturing Representatives

Debbie Clausen, LMK Technologies, Ottawa

Tim Farraher, Metform, Savanna

Deana Jones, Wahl Clipper Corporation, Sterling

Amy Liebing, Sensient Flavors, Amboy

Dave Mennie, Mennie Machine Company, Mark

Cary Robbins, Sterling Steel Company, Sterling

Jennifer Robbins. Dura Auto, Stockton

Gerald Waszkowiak, American Nickeloid, LaSalle

Jim Weed , PNC, Inc.

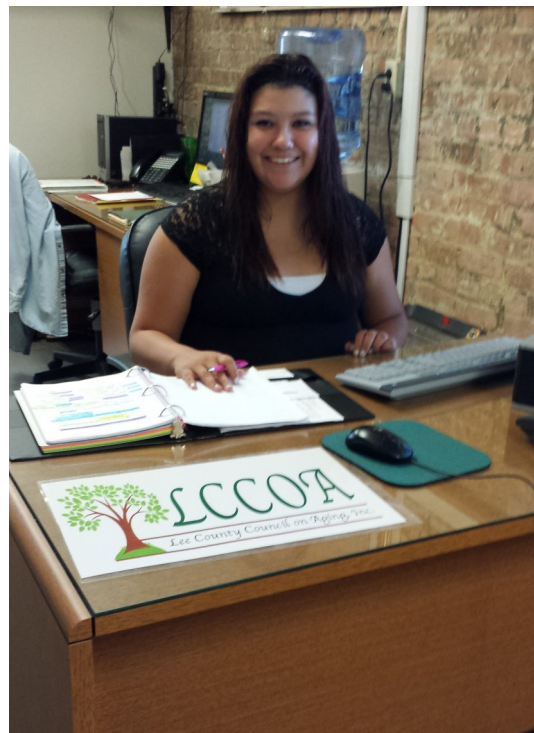
Summer Youth Employment Program Enrolls 80 Area Youth

BEST, Inc. received a grant for \$150,000 from DCEO the end of June to administer a summer youth employment program. Enrollment goal was to put to work 75 youth in the 8 counties served by BEST (Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam, and Whiteside). By the end of August BEST had exceeded the enrollment goal and was serving 80 youth through summer employment. By the first of August DCEO offered additional grant money and BEST received an additional \$40,000 to serve the youth that were already working.

BEST, Inc. has administered a youth summer program the past 30 years. Funding for these programs has been made possible through the Job Training and Partnership Act, the Workforce Investment Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and through DCEO's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).



Olivia at Heritage Woods-Sterling



Cassandra at Lee Co. Council on Aging



Austin at Goodwill—Sterling



Kathleen at Dixon YMCA

MEMBER AGENCIES OF NCI WORKS

- ◆ Business Employment Skills, Inc.
- ◆ Experience Works, Inc.
Senior Workforce Solutions
- ◆ Housing Authority for Carroll County
- ◆ Illinois Department of Employment Security
- ◆ Illinois Department of Human Services—FCRC
- ◆ IDHS—Office of Rehabilitation Services
- ◆ Illinois Valley Community College
- ◆ Kishwaukee Community College
- ◆ Sauk Valley Community College
- ◆ Tri-County Opportunities Council

July 2014 Unemployment Rates

Most Recent Available:

National 6.50%

State of IL 7.0%

LWIA 4 8.0%

Bureau Co 8.3%

Carroll Co. 7.2%

Jo Daviess Co. 5.6 %

LaSalle Co 8.7%

Lee Co 7.3%

Ogle Co 8.4%

Putnam Co 8.4%

Whiteside Co. 7.9%

August Unemployment Rates will be posted to
www.nciworks.org by the end of September

**Access to the services provided by each of these
agencies is available at:**

Southtowne Mall 2323 E Lincolnway

1550 First Avenue Sterling, IL 61081

Ottawa, IL 61356 815-625-9648

815-434-3111 TTY: 800-526-0844

Northwest Central Illinois Works (NCI Works) is a locally appointed workforce board that oversees workforce development programs that are funded by millions of federal tax dollars for an eight-county area (Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties).

IMPORTANT UPDATES!!!

> LMI and Job Data is available on the NCI Works website at www.nciworks.org

> NCI Works Annual Employer Conference: October 8, 2014, Mendota Civic Center, Mendota, IL. For details visit www.nciworks.org

> This year's annual Work in the Real World event at Sauk Valley Community College will be November 14, 2014 from 9am to 1:30 p.m. Any employer interested in being a speaker at the event should contact Sally at 815-288-1260. This is a great opportunity to inform our youth about the skills required for today's occupations.

NCI Works meets the 4th Tuesday
of the following months
at the
Reagan Transit Center, Dixon, IL
at 5:30 p.m.:

January	July
March	September
May	November

Meetings are open to the public



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