



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Spring 2014

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

Women Veteran Program Established

This Article originally appeared in the December 2013 publication of NAWDP Advantage. Reprinted here with permission from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

The US Department of Labor has established a Women Veteran Program in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). The Women Veteran Program will serve to:

- Increase awareness of American Job Centers among unemployed or underemployed women veterans and those who influence them;
- Increase Awareness of other DOL resources, services, and actionable best practices among women veterans in the labor force;
- Educate employers and the general public on the strengths, capabilities, and contributions of women veterans while expanding tradition-

al perceptions of who a veteran is; and

- Develop a better understanding of the myriad of possible challenges, strengths, and actionable best practices that may be experienced by women veterans in the labor force and use it to continually improve the methods of accomplishing the goals mentioned above, as well as drive policy formation and/or improve existing services as appropriate.

The Women Veteran Program is led by Dr. Nancy A. Glowacki. Prior to coming to VETS, she served as a subject matter expert on veterans' transition issues for the military, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and as an independent consultant. Nancy has

worked on a variety of veterans' employment initiatives and programs, including Coming Home to Work, America's Heroes at Work, and Employment Workshops. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served among both the enlisted and officer ranks. The Women Veteran Program falls under VETS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Teresa W. Gerton. Teresa brings 28 years of service as both an active duty Army officer and a civilian member of the Senior Executive Service. She has a broad range of experience in all aspects of Defense resource and logistics management at various organizational levels, driving process efficiencies and optimizing information systems.

Also in This Issue:

- American Legion Recognizes Ottawa IDES Office for Services to Veterans
 - The Benefits of Hiring a Mature Worker
 - Local Labor Market Information Updates
- Spotlight on NCI Works Vice-Chair Debbie Clausen and Secretary Mary Boogemans



@NCIWorks

American Legion Chooses IDES' Ottawa Office as Nation's Best Employment Services for Veterans

Original Press Release Date: August 28, 2013.
Reprinted with permission from IDES

Chicago—The Illinois Department of Employment Security's Ottawa office will be honored by the American Legion as the nation's best provider of employment services to Veterans.

"It is an amazing honor to be recognized by our military heroes across our country and incredibly rewarding to assist Veterans to return to work and transition back to civilian life," IDES Director Jay Rowell said. "The award recognizes IDES' emphasis on employment services as well as the dedication shown by our associates to help those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom."

IDES is charged with delivering re-employment services to Veterans. In 2012, IDES helped 17,000 Veterans return to work. The Veteran unemployment rate in Illinois was lower than the national rate in 2011 and 2012. The state rate in 2011 was 8.1 percent, the national rate 8.3 percent. The state rate in 2012 was 6.8 percent, the national rate 7.0 percent.



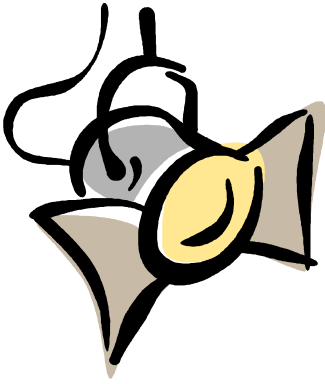
The Employment Service award will be presented Aug. 28th during the American Legion's 95th national convention in Houston, Texas. More than 9,000 Veterans are expected to attend. It is the first time Illinois has won a national award from the American Legion. Only one national winner is chosen each year.

"We are excited to see the American Legion's recognition of Illinois' effort on behalf of Veterans," said Erica Borggren, director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. "Thanks to Governor Quinn's leadership and the work of IDES, our Veterans are receiving much-needed assistance in finding meaningful employment, which is a linchpin to a successful transition to civilian life. We congratulate Ms. Curran and the team of the Ottawa office."

Nancy Curran is the Ottawa office manager. She will accept the award on behalf of all IDES associates during a ceremony at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The American Legion is paying expenses.

Curran said that Illinois has a good story to tell helping Veterans return to work. She said this honor shows there is reason for Veterans, their spouses and their loved ones to be optimistic. Curran also said it is rewarding to work with Veterans and the local partners at Ottawa's One Stop comprehensive center.

With 2.4 million members, the American Legion is the nation's largest organization of wartime Veterans. It began in 1919 with an emphasis on a strong national security, Veteran affairs, Americanism and youth programs. There are more than 14,000 Posts nationwide. The Illinois headquarters is in Bloomington.



Member Spotlight

Mary Boogemans: NCI Works Secretary



What is your professional background? I have been in Human Resources for over 15 years with my current company. Prior to, I was a legal secretary.

What made you decide to volunteer to serve on a workforce board? Actually I was approached by Pam Furlan. We met and discussed what the board does and the impact it has on the community. After seeing Pam's dedication, I decided to give it a try. I felt this was good way to help me understand what the workforce board does and what I could do to help the employment situation in our area.

How long have you been a board member? I joined the board in Sept/Oct 2009.

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? I feel this program is essential in helping people cross the barriers to employment. The established programs help develop tomorrows youth, help the workforce attain skills and help the employers find the right talent. This is done through volunteers from businesses, government, local colleges and non-profit organizations. The workforce board is dedicated to improving the workforce and meeting the demands of tomorrows business.

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
815-224-7930 • pmfurlan@aol.com

NCI Works Honors Successful Job Seekers



Sally Hanrahan (BEST, Inc.), Beth Hubbard (Whiteside County Regional Office of Education) and Lorna Engwall (Whiteside County Regional Office of Education) accept the Individual Achievement Award presented to Adrian Rabadan

The Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) honored seven local job seekers that have recently found new careers. Each honoree utilized the programs and services available at the Business Employment Skills Team (BEST, Inc.) to get job search help or find occupational training during their search for their new job. The NCI Works honored Francis Baker (Peru), Derek Dudley (Rock Falls), Jennifer Giacometti (DePue), Lisa Koser (Lanark), Helen Krieger (Streator), Rebecca Malawy (Dixon), and Adrian Rabadan (Sterling) for their achievements. Each honoree was presented with an **Individual Achievement Award**.

LaSalle County Broadcastings John Spencer was presented with a **Business Leadership Award** for demonstrating leadership and contributions to

Workforce/Economic Development Activities.

Representative Frank Mautino was honored with an **NCI Works Special Recognition Award** for his leadership, contributions and continued support of workforce development activities in Workforce Investment Area #4.

The following awards were presented to volunteers in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions to the workforce development system

Service Awards:

Northwest Central IL Works!

James Andreoni	Fifteen Year
Mary Boogemans	Five Year
James Carlson	Five Year
Linda Hessenberger	Five Year
David Howell	Five Year
Cary Robbins	Five Year
Betty Steinert	Ten Year
Gerald Waszkowiak	Fifteen Year

Northwest Central IL Works! Youth Council

Emlee Dooley	Ten Year
Beth Hubbard	Ten Year
Terry Madsen	Ten Year



DeAnne White presents fellow NCI Works Board Member, Linda Hessenberger with a Five Year Service Award

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. staff were recognized for their years in workforce development

Matt Gingrich	Ten Years	Brenda Helms	Ten Years
Sarah Price	Ten Years	Shelley Zinke	Ten Years
Carrie Folken	Twenty Years	Dianna Schuler	Twenty Years
Paige Fritz	Twenty Five Years	Kathy Day	Thirty Years
Pam Furlan	Thirty Years	Jo Ann Johnson	Thirty Years
Mary Wieczorek	Thirty Years		



Pam Furlan, Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. Executive Director (Local Workforce Investment Board/Programs) presents Representative Frank Mautino (IL-76) with an NCI Works Special Recognition Award for his leadership, contributions and continued support of workforce development activities in Workforce Investment Area #4.



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 a eight-county area (Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside Counties).

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



TRAINING • CONNECTING • DEVELOPING ILLINOIS' WORKFORCE

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

IMPORTANT UPDATES!!!

- > **LMI and Job Data** is available on the NCI Works website at www.nciworks.org
- > **NCI Works Annual Employer Conference:** look for a “Save the Date” notice in the summer newsletter
- > **June** means its time for our **Summer Youth Work Experience**. Contact our **Business Relations Manager** to get your name on a list of worksites by emailing her at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org and reference “summer youth” in the subject line.

NCI Works meets on the 4th Tuesday
of the following months at
5:30 p.m:

January	July
March	September
May	November

For meeting locations, please refer to
the Meeting Calendars that are posted
at www.nciworks.org.

Meetings are open to the public

January 2014 Unemployment Rates Most

Recent Available:

National 7.0%

State of IL 9.4%

LWIA 4 11.2%

Bureau Co 10.9%

Carroll Co. 10.9%

Jo Daviess Co. 9.6 %

LaSalle Co 12.4%

Lee Co 10.1%

Ogle Co 11.7%

Putnam Co 12.5%

Whiteside Co. 9.9%