



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Summer 2017

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

Jolien Eikleberry Receives US Department of Labor Participant Award

Jolien enrolled in the Business Employment Skills Team, after being involved in the closure of Office Max in Ottawa, Illinois. She had worked for the company for 14 years as a customer service representative and was making 13.25 per hour.

Upon inquiring into the Business Employment Skills Teams, she had been job searching with no luck. She was finding that she had limited employment opportunities and, with further assessment, was planning to enroll in training. In the spring of 2015 Jolien enrolled in the AAS Business Technology Program at Illinois Valley Community College. Upon starting she was very concerned about her finances, however felt that by completing her degree it would enhance her employment opportunities. In December of 2015, the company that Jolien had been employed—Office Max - was trade certified and immediately her application was processed. This gave her the financial opportunity to complete her training program. In the spring of 2016 she continued training under the trade program.

As part of Jolien's training program she was also required to do a work internship. It was at this time that she started working part-time with the Business Employment Skills Team, assisting with some of the administrative duties. During Jolien's training, she was nothing but detailed, organized and professional even though she was going through major personal tragedies.

In December of 2016, Jolien graduated with her Associate of Science – Business Technology and obtained Academic Honors. Today she has just started full time work with OSF, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center working as an admitting clerk making 13.60 per hour

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 - May LMI



@NCIWorks

Partners of NCI Works Sponsor Hiring Events That Respond to the Needs of Those Recently Laid Off

In response to the needs of those recently laid off from Nippon Sharyo in Rochelle, Austin-Westran in Byron, and Dura Automotive in Stockton; and in partnership with the City of Oregon and Highland Community College, BEST, Inc. and the Illinois Department of Employment Security hosted two manufacturing hiring events. In April, the partners hosted an event that brought together 25 companies and 140 job seekers at the Oregon Coliseum. In May, the partners hosted an event at Highland Community College that brought together 23 employers, with 67 total openings, and over 100 job seekers. Both events focused on manufacturing opportunities and were open to the public.



Feedback from companies at both events has been positive and organizers were pleased with the turnout. The organizers wish to extend their gratitude to the Mayor of Oregon for his assistance in securing the facility and to Highland

Community College for the use of their facility. Future hiring events will be in the planning as both BEST, Inc. and the Illinois Department of Employment Security are committed to efforts to bring those seeking employment together with area businesses that are seeking qualified candidates.



Core Partners OF NCI WORKS

◆ Adult Education

◆ Business Employment Skills, Inc.

◆ Illinois Department of Employment Security

◆ Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services



Pam Furlan

Named Illinois Workforce Partnership President 2017-2019

Pam Furlan, Executive Director of Programs for the Business Employment Skills Team and Workforce Innovation Board Executive Director for NCI Works, has been named the 2017-2019 President of the Illinois Workforce Partnership, a statewide association of workforce development directors in Illinois. Furlan was selected at the June meeting to serve the 2 year term which runs from July 2017 through June 2019.

The Illinois Workforce Partnership promotes the sharing of information among all workforce development stakeholders, formulates policy positions that impact Local Workforce Areas, provides input into the formulation of state guidelines and procedures, and works with elected officials to ensure continuous quality staff development. As President of the Illinois Workforce Partnership, Furlan will also be an ex-officio member of the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board.



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815-224-0375 (Phone)
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www.nciworks.org

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

NCI Works to Sponsor Upcoming State of the Workforce Community Forums

NCI Works will sponsor 3 community forums during which the results of a recently commissioned community audit and underemployed survey will be presented. The final report, which was commissioned by BEST, Inc. and conducted by Thomas P. Miller and Associates, will highlight key findings of the labor market study and infrastructure review along with a review of the underemployed business and individual surveys. A discussion of the findings and implications will follow the presentation of the full report.

Forums will be held:

Monday, July 24, 2017
Highland Community College, Room H-210
Freeport, IL
12:30pm to 4pm (Lunch Will Be Provided)

Wednesday, July 26, 2017
Peru City Hall
1901 4th St.
Peru, IL
8:30am to 12:00pm (Continental Breakfast Will Be Provided)

Thursday, July 27, 2017
Sauk Valley Community College, Room 2K02
Dixon, IL
8:30am to 12:00pm (Continental Breakfast Will Be Provided)

For more information contact Pam Furlan at 815-224-0375. To reserve a seat at one of the events email or call JoAnn Johnson at joann_johnson@best-inc.org, 815-224-0375.

NCI Works meets the 4th Tuesday of the following months at Illinois Valley Community College, Sauk Valley Community College, Highland Community College and Carroll County Housing Authority via Electronic Meeting Capability at 5:30pm:

January	July
March	September
May	November

Meetings are open to the public.

(Location are subject to change. Please consult the NCI Works website, www.nciworks.org, for updated meeting locations.)

Bright Farms Receives American Legion Award

Bright Farms in Rochelle was recently honored with an American Legion Award for their work with both the Illinois Department of Employment Security and BEST, Inc. in hiring and training Navy veteran Patrick Coleman. Patrick appeared on the Intensive Services Report and was contacted by the Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program (DVOP). He had been laid-off from his roofing job and wanted to better his position. He had a valid license but no car. He wanted a job in his hometown of Rochelle, IL but was having no luck. He was referred by the Sterling DVOP, Jack Kromer, to Theresia Charley at the BEST Inc. of Ogle County in Oregon, IL. Theresia had been working with Bright Farm and had already determined they were an eligible employer for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program. She presented Patrick to the new Bright Farm company in Rochelle, IL as a prospective OJT program employee. Bright Farm was interested in hiring Patrick if his application package could be assembled in time. The DVOP requested and got a DD214 for Patrick to show he was a veteran allowing him to start his new job on time. He is now thriving there in his new career. As of two weeks ago, he is still employed and was recently promoted to Lead Harvester/Driver.

In some cases, as evidenced by the example of Patrick Coleman, it can be a matter of reaching out beyond borders and boundaries. A matter of not just making the referral but of the close collaboration of all of the staff members in the Sterling IDES office along with the B.E.S.T. Inc. staff in the northern half of LWIA4 and the Veteran Services staff in Rock Island that bring about successful resolutions for veterans. We congratulate both Bright Farms on their Award and Patrick Coleman for his employment success.

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).

May 2017 Unemployment Rate Most Recent Available:

National 4.3%
State of IL 4.6%
LWIA 4 4.5%
Bureau Co 4.1%
Carroll Co. 4.0%
Jo Daviess Co. 3.4%
LaSalle Co 5.1%
Lee Co 4.4%
Ogle Co 4.6%
Putnam Co 4.1%
Whiteside Co. 4.3%

Wondering what the NCI Works partners can do for your business? Our matrix of business services is available online at www.nciworks.org.

New Members Appointed To Serve On NCI Works

The Chief Elected Official for the NCI Works 8-county area recently met and appointed the following individuals to NCI Works:

Marcia Derrer, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency

Andrew Mills, Mills Machine, Inc. (Savanna)

Marcie Wiley, Rescar, Inc. (Savanna)

Look for Member Spotlights on these new members in coming editions.

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Annual NCI Works Employer Conference:

Friday, October 27, 2017

Mendota Civic Center

Time: TBA

**Look For Additional Information And
Registration Form In The Coming Weeks
On The NCI Work Website, Facebook, and
Twitter!**

[Www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org)

“The Labor Market Demographic is an invaluable resource for those of us involved in Economic Development. We use this information when responding to a number of “request for information” such as: Grants, State Site Searches, Realtors, Retail, Disaster etc. Though you would think all would seek the same information, this is not the case. Having the very detailed breakdown in the Labor Market Demographic allows us to respond to specific Labor Market Demographic questions quickly and accurately.”

Boyd Palmer
Executive Director
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Additional Labor Market Information is available at the NCI Works website at www.nciwork.org

Labor Force Data	Current Month (Dec. 2016)
Employment	129,327
Average Annual Wage	\$41,900
Percentage Change Over 2015	0.1%
Unemployment Rate: May 2017	4.5%
Industry	
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	5,372
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	915
Utilities	1,849
Construction	6,008
Manufacturing	19,672
Wholesale Trade	5,160
Retail Trade	15,270
Transportation/Warehousing	8,976
Information	1,196
Finance/Insurance	3,751
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,443
Professional Science/Technical	3,141
Management	417
Administrative Support	5,094
Educational	10,824
Health Care/Social Assistance	15,353
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,686
Accommodation/Food Service	10,453
Other Services	5,566
Public Administration	7,049
Unclassified	131
Total All Industries	129,327
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2017Q1)	