



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Summer 2019

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

Stertil ALM Streator Completes Lean Six Sigma Training

Fifteen employees at Stertil - ALM completed Lean Six Sigma training in August made possible through BEST, Inc. Incumbent Worker Training Program grant funds. Training was provided by the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Council (IMEC) in cooperation with Purdue University's Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Lean Six Sigma provide a company with the organizational tools to improve its business/production process in an effort to eliminate waste and promote work standardization. The department at Stertil-ALM that

went through this process training commented that the training taught them how to understand each other's job better and how their job interact and depend on each other doing their best work. Jeremy Sneath stated that when the training was announced his department immediately began organizing for the change. He went on to state that you make a better quality product when you understand the job and how your job fits with what is going on down the line. He said that they have now all becomes leaders and intend to lead by example for the other departments to copy until they have the opportunity to go through the training themselves. When asked what his "OMG" moment was. Jeremy said that it was when they learned about Point of



Left to Right: Back Row -Ron Ross, Clay Wiseman, Mark Jackson, Robby Dellinger, Jonathan Watts, Merianne Morris, Allan Pavlick, Middle Row - Phillip Ruth, Scott Morris, Becky Pence, Rick Noel, Jeremy Sneath, Front Row - Austin Petty, David J. Wargo, Scott Easton

Continued on Page 5



815 N Orlando Smith Ave
Room C328
Oglesby, IL 61348

815-224-0375 (Phone)
815-223-1385 (Fax)
www.nciworks.org



@NCIWorks

Also in This Issue:

- State Award Winner Charles Mighell
 - Podcast and Industry Briefs
- NCI Works Annual Report Announcement
 - Most Recent LMI



Charles Mighell Received State Award At Annual Illinois Workforce Partner- ship Luncheon

Charles Mighell was referred to BEST Inc. in December of 2017. Charles was a senior at Sterling High School and enrolled in a class that teaches work skills and encourages students to find employment during the school year to practice what they are learning. If students find employment, the school allows them to leave school an hour early. Louise and Rebecca noticed that Charles had a wonderful attitude but would likely need some support to obtain and keep a job.

BEST met with Charles and worked on a plan where Charles would meet regularly with BEST, DHS and SHS to review job search and job keeping topics and BEST would provide an opportunity for him to have an interview with a potential employer.

Charles did not have access to transportation and used a bike or walked everywhere that he went. He also shared a phone with his mother so he needed to work at a business that was within walking distance and would have a set schedule. He was very interested in working around food and was referred to CGH Medical Center. CGH agreed to take him into the dietary department through BEST's Work Experience Program. BEST would pay Charles' wage and CGH would provide the needed coaching with developing excellent work skills and work habits. BEST paid for Charles to obtain the needed screenings to work in the hospital and also paid for his clothing and work shoes. He was required to earn a food handlers certificate and CGH worked with his teacher at the high school to ensure that Charles successfully passed.

Charles did such a good job at work that Kerensa Pink, his supervisor, called BEST to ask if she could expand Charles' duties. She felt that if he could continue to learn new duties that she would be able to consider him for permanent hire. Charles was very appreciative and enthusiastically started to learn new duties and take on new responsibilities. Charles graduated from high school in May and stated that CGH was where he wanted to stay. CGH offered him permanent employment and he was hired full-time with benefits and a \$3.50 / hour increase in wages.

Almost a year later, Charles has his own apartment, his own phone, is engaged and is very positive about his future. Kerensa continues to report how well Charles is doing at work, says he comes in every time he is called to cover someone's else shift and said he is now helping to train new employees. Charles says "Things are going great at CGH and I just love it there. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to really put my life together".

Core Partners of NCI WORKS

- ◆ Adult Education
- ◆ Business Employment Skills, Inc.
- ◆ Illinois Department of Employment Security
- ◆ Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services



Kim P. Gouker

4/26/1953 - 9/10/2019

Byron, IL

Local Workforce Area #4 (LWA #4), comprised of 8 counties in Northwest Central Illinois, lost a true champion of workforce development with the recent passing of Kim Gouker, Ogle County Board Chairman. Chairman Gouker served on the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.) Board of Directors, and the Chief Elected Officials of Workforce Development Area #4 (CEOs of WDA #4) since 2013, and was chairman of the Chief Elected Officials Board at the time of his passing. “Chairman Gouker was a true advocate for the populations served by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA),” said Pam Furlan, BEST, Inc./NCI Works Executive Director, “and he will certainly be missed by those of us fortunate enough to have worked with him these past years. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.”

NCI Works Industry Briefs are available for downloading! NCI works is releasing a series of **Industry Briefs** designed to provide information on the current environment/trends of a given industry, challenges that industry is facing, most important skills needed, qualities most desired by employers, hiring opportunities within our local area, salary ranges for our area, what is good about working in that field, what might be not-so-good about working in that field. These **Industry Briefs** are available to the general public, educators, economic developers, parents, counselors, teachers to download at:

<http://www.nciworks.org/industry-briefs/>

It is the hope of NCI Works that, by making these briefs available, area students and job seekers will be able to make the best informed decision possible when it comes to deciding on a career or making a career change.

For more information on this initiative please contact

Pam Furlan at pam_fulan@best-inc.org or

call at 815-224-0375

NCI Works Annual Report

For Program Year 2018 (July 1, 2018 -June 30, 2019)

Will Available for Downloading

At www.nciworks.org

October 4, 2019

Still Paying for Workforce Solutions?

**IDES and IllinoisJobLink.com can connect you with talented,
skilled job seekers in just a few clicks!**

At your request, our team will search, screen and set interviews for you at our locations or yours. Need to train new or existing employees? We will identify funding and candidates for training. Once you've hired, we can identify tax credits of up to \$9,600 per eligible employee.

To get started, go to IllinoisJobLink.com or call (877) 342-7533 and let us know you're hiring!

NCI Works meets at 5:30 p.m. on 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

January	July
March	September
May	November

Meetings are open to the public.

(Dates & Locations are subject to change. Please consult the NCI Works website,
www.nciworks.org, for meeting information)

Continued from Page 1

Stertil ALM Streator Completes Lean Six Sigma Training

Storage. He explained that Point of Use Storage is when you have only that which you need to do your job. It reduces clutter and also better organizes each work station so that the employee can be their most productive and efficient.

In addition to the completion of the classroom portion of the training each employee is expected to complete an independent project that applies the knowledge and tools obtained in the classroom. Providing for the complete ownership of one's job and how to make improvements.

Funding for this training was made possible through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant and the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. (BEST, Inc.).



Jeremy Sneath commenting on his training experience



Final individual presentations before completing classroom portion of Prudue MEP Lean Six Sigma Training

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).

July 2019 Unemployment Rate Most

Recent Available:

National 3.7%

State of IL 4.2%

LWIA 4 4.4%

Bureau Co 4.0%

Carroll Co. 3.5%

Jo Daviess Co. 3.3%

LaSalle Co 4.9%

Lee Co 3.9%

Ogle Co 4.5%

Putnam Co 4.3%

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.

“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.nciworks.org

Labor Force Data	Current Month (July 2019)
Employment	129,876
Average Annual Wage	\$43,212
Percentage Change Over 2018	-1.3%
Unemployment Rate: July 2019	4.4%
Industry	
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	4,664
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	990
Utilities	1,741
Construction	6,023
Manufacturing	19,395
Wholesale Trade	4,803
Retail Trade	14,277
Transportation/Warehousing	9,018
Information	1,113
Finance/Insurance	3,644
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,418
Professional Science/Technical	3,439
Management	330
Administrative Support	4,678
Educational	10,649
Health Care/Social Assistance	15,258
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,533
Accommodation/Food Service	10,795
Other Services	5,642
Public Administration	7,463
Unclassified	3
Total All Industries	129,876
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2019Q2)	