



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Winter 2019

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

NCI WORKS WELCOMES 2 NEW MEMBERS

We asked the 2 newest members of NCI Works to tell us a little about themselves by asking them these 3 questions:

1. What is your professional background?
2. What made you interested in joining the workforce board?
3. What do you as the biggest challenge to today's workforce and employers?

Patty Vladika



My professional background really consists of dedicating almost 40 years to Customer Service. Our plant was originally the recognition division of Jostens of which I worked for almost 25 years in different levels of Customer Service. I started out as an order entry person and by continuing my education advanced and working hard I was given the opportunity to enter the management ranks while working for Jostens. MTM Recognition bought the Jostens Recognition division in 2000 and I have continued my career in Customer Service. I have held several positions within Customer Service such as product specialist role, office manager, National Accounts Manager. My current role and responsibilities are as Customer Care Manager, Implementation Facilitator and Co-Chair Quality leadership within our organization.

Our plant Manager Tom Tester originally approached me about the workforce board. I then spent a couple of hours with Pam who definitely piqued my interest in becoming part of the board. I decided to give it a chance and see if there was something that I could offer to the board based on my experiences.

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@NCIWorks

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 - Educational Pieces Available
- Save the Date! Employer Forum
 - Partner Hiring Event
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I think the biggest challenges we face today are figuring out how to not only have our positions appeal to the younger workforce but also to offer them the flexibility of learning, growing and adapting to a full time position while still maintaining the lifestyle that so many of the young adults expect at this point. They don't want to be bored by repetition, they want to be challenged and have opportunities to move around within the organization.

Kris Noble



Kris Noble has been with the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce for 4 ½ years; and as Executive Director for 4. Prior to the Chamber world, Kris worked as an Adolescent Therapist for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. For over 27 years, Kris has worked as a consultant in community wellness with an emphasis in positive youth development, community engagement, and strategic planning. She has worked with school districts, not for profit organizations, service clubs, businesses, preschools and faith communities on how to make environments more youth friendly and improving youth/adult relationships and partnerships. Kris graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She serves as a Board member for the B.L.I.N.D leadership group, as Board member on the Sterling Rock Falls Family YMCA and is involved with the Youth Group at Wesley United Methodist Church.

Kris was excited to be asked to be part of the workforce board as she saw it as an opportunity to learn more about how workforce development works and how it is funded in the state of Illinois. She also believes that it is through communication and collaboration that we will be able to make positive change in addressing workforce development issues and the workforce board seems like a way in which to convene some of these changes that need to occur. One of the biggest challenges that needs to be addressed is getting rid of the "silos" between education and business/employers. The education system and the business community need to make a commitment to work together to help prepare our children for life; which includes a variety of career pathways and education opportunities.

New Faces at the NCI Works One-Stop in Ottawa

Three new Employment Security Program Representatives have joined the team at the Ottawa NCI Works One-Stop Center. Karen Alvarado, Michelle McPhedran, and Nicole Sweeney began their careers with the Illinois Department of Employment Security since our last newsletter. We welcome them and know that they will serve the public well in their careers.



Core Partners of NCI WORKS

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

Join us for our Podcast Series: Getting to Work



Episode 1: Getting Ready to Work

Episode 2: Changes in the Health Care Profession

Episode 3: Interviewing Preparations

Episode 4: Pursuing a Career in Manufacturing

Episode 5: Building a Talent Pipeline

Episode 6: Agriculture Careers in 2018 and Beyond

Episode 7: Using An Innovative and Sustainable Farming Method

Episode 8: Pursuing a Career in Physical Therapy

Episode 9: Helping People Find a Job in the State of Illinois

Coming Soon To The Series: Business Services That Will Help Your Business Remain More Competitive!

OVER 2,200 DOWNLOADS!!!!!!!

Check out the entire series by searching Getting to Work in your favorite podcast app. Or find links at nciworks.org

NCI Works recently launched a new initiative! 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

SAVE THE DATE

**NCI Works Partners: Illinois Department of
Employment Security, BEST, Inc., and IVCC
Will Be Hosting An Employer Forum
May 15th from 10AM to 11:30AM
At the Reddick Library
*Additional Information to Come!!!***

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)

Kirkman Trucking Hiring Event

On February 20, 2019, IDES hosted a hiring event at the IVCC Truck Driver Training Program at 815 N Orlando Smith Road, Oglesby, Illinois. IVCC is one of our Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act partners. We found qualified candidates for Kirkman Trucking from Ladd, Illinois to interview that day for the three CDL Class A Truck Driver positions they had open. Among the qualified candidates who interviewed were some of the students who had been enrolled in their training program through our WIOA partner, Business Employment Skills Team. This was a very successful hiring event among the WIOA partners, and the employer was able to find qualified candidates to fill their Driver positions.

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).

December 2018 Unemployment Rate Most Recent Available:

National	3.7%
State of IL	4.4 %
LWIA 4	6.1%
Bureau Co	6.2%
Carroll Co.	5.3%
Jo Daviess Co.	5.6 %
LaSalle Co	7.2%
Lee Co	5.1%
Ogle Co	5.9%
Putnam Co	6.0%
Whiteside Co.	5.3%

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 (Dec 2018)
Employment	129,610
Average Annual Wage	\$42,032
Percentage Change Over 2017	0.7%
Unemployment Rate:	6.1%
Industry	
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	4,856
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	1,059
Utilities	1,856
Construction	6,318
Manufacturing	19,774
Wholesale Trade	4,975
Retail Trade	14,960
Transportation/Warehousing	9,244
Information	1,122
Finance/Insurance	3,683
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,419
Professional Science/Technical	3,363
Management	404
Administrative Support	4,727
Educational	10,634
Health Care/Social Assistance	15,452
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,599
Accommodation/Food Service	10,838
Other Services	5,739
Public Administration	7,576
Unclassified	13
Total All Industries	129,610
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2018Q4)	