

Annual Report

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020



A proud partner of the [AmericanJobCenter](#) network

Prepared by the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee of NCI Works!
Funds were provided under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Visit us at www.nciworks.org



Greetings!

As always, the staff of the one-stop system continue to strive to provide the highest quality services to all of our customers, youth, adult, dislocated workers, businesses and the general public. This past year has presented numerous challenges in light of the CoVid 19 pandemic. In response to these challenges, staff have worked remotely, staggered their presence in programmatic offices, developed virtual workshops, assisted area small businesses with state grant opportunities, and continued to provide a high level of services to all customers while maintaining strict observance of CoVid 19 restrictions. We applaud all partner staff for the ongoing commitment to the residents and businesses of our workforce area.

Linda S. Burt

Cory Robbins



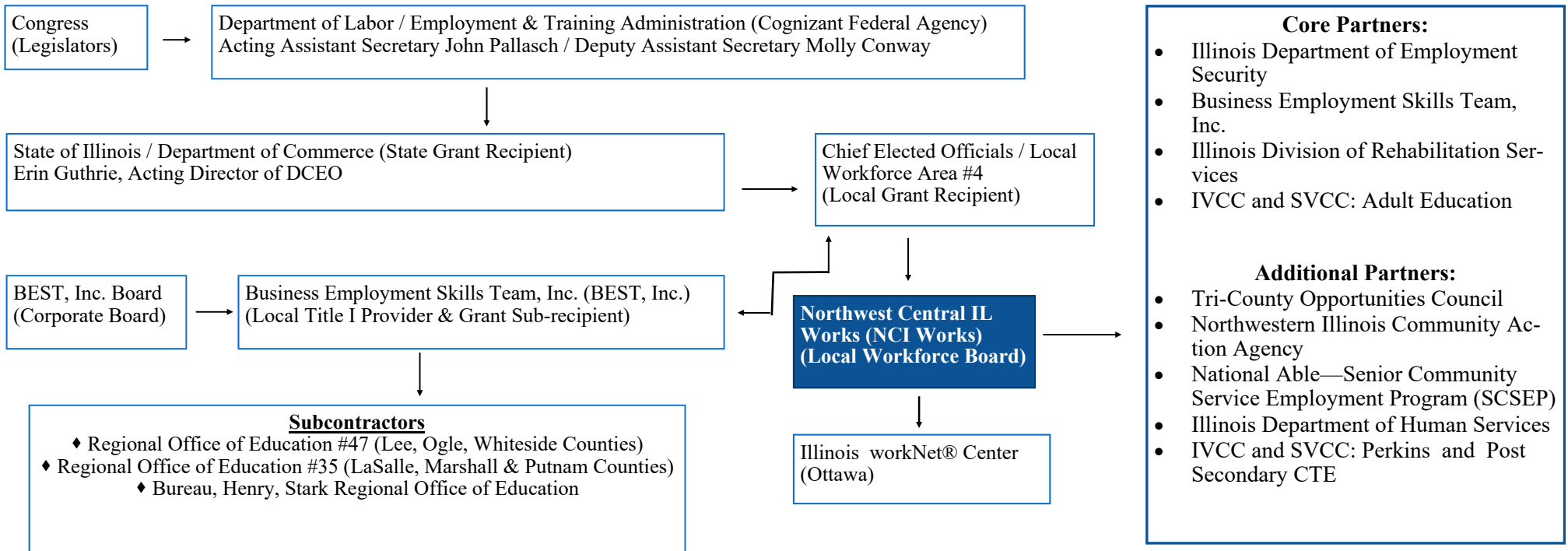
Goed Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS **WORKS**



NCI Works One-Stop Center
1550 First Ave
Ottawa, IL 61350

<https://nciworksamericanjobcenter.wordpress.com/about>
815-640-9407, TTY 800-526-0844 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm
Closed State Holidays



Year in Review

Adult Education

To inquire about Adult Education Services log on to the following websites or call the contact listed below.

Illinois Valley Community College:
<https://www.ivcc.edu/adulted.aspx?id=2884>
Or Call 815-224-0358.

Sauk Valley Community College:
<https://www.svcc.edu/community/adult-education>
Or Call 815-835-6310

Highland Community College:
<https://highland.edu/adult-education>
Or Call 815-599-3460

Highland Community College
FY 20 Statistics

- Number of students enrolled in Fiscal Year 2020
- 69 Adult Basic Education (ABE grade-levels 0.0 to 8.9)
- 9 Adult Secondary Education (ASE grade-levels 9.0 -12.9)
- 5 ASE Students Accessed Programming through an Online Class (i-Pathways)
- 21 English as a Second Language (ESL) (Mixed levels-beginning, intermediate, and advanced)
- 99 Total students served

- During Fiscal Year 2020:
- 12 Students Self-Reported GED© Completion
 - 05 Students Accessed Programming through an Online Class (I-Pathways)
 - 02 Students Self-Reported a Disability (physical, mental, learning or multiple)
 - 51 Students Self-Reported That They Were Unemployed
 - 22 Students Received Public Assistance
 - 27 Students Reported That English is Not Their First Language

Sauk Valley Community College
FY 20 Statistics

Program participation:	
Adult Basic Education (ABE grade levels 4.0 – 8.9)	45
Adult Secondary Education (ASE grade levels 9.0 -12.9+)	64
ESL – All levels	42
Total students (Unduplicated)	151

- Top Five Career Interests
- Heath Sciences *Certified Nursing Assistant/Nursing
 - Welding/HVAC/Manufacturing
 - Management/Marketing
 - Human Services
 - Teaching/Early Childhood Education

New Programs Offered in FY20 – Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) ICAPS Program

To encourage adult education students to earn a college certificate that will allow them to start working in a career pathway, the Adult Education program offers the Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (ICAPS) program.

The ICAPS program consists of dual enrollment in Adult Education and the CNA Career and Technical Education courses. The students’ successful completion of the ICAPS program results in the completion of the high school equivalency (GED), a college credential and/or college credits, and the CNA certification. Once the program is successfully completed, students are able to work in an entry-level position in the specific career pathway. Students are encouraged to continue their education in order to earn a higher-level certificate or college degree

Illinois Valley Community College
FY 20 Statistics

- ABE/HSE - 181
- ESL- 158
- Total- Adult Education Students 339
-
- High School Equivalency passers- 32
- Citizenship 3
- Bridge to Healthcare 6

Illinois Department of Employment Security

IDES Offices Closed to the Public Until Further Notice No Other Information Was Available At This Time

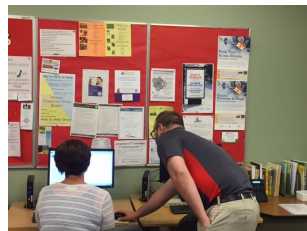
The health and safety of our customers and staff are of highest importance. In order to protect everyone through social distancing, IDES offices are closed to the public until further notice.

You may access IDES services using the following methods: To file an Unemployment Insurance claim visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/aboutides/Pages/10%20Things%20You%20Should%20Know.aspx>

If you have questions about Unemployment Insurance, please call our Customer Service Center at 800-244-5631. Individuals with a hearing impairment who would like to speak with someone in the Claimant Services Center should dial 711 for the Illinois Relay System. Once connected, please direct the communications analyst to call IDES at 800.244.5631.

To certify for Unemployment Insurance benefits visit https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/Certify_Weekly_Benefits.aspx or call Tele-Serve at 312-338-4337 Monday - Friday 3:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

To post your resume, search job postings, or find a job, visit www.illinoisjoblink.com.



<https://nciworksamericanjobcenter.wordpress.com/about>

Illinois Division of Rehabilitative Services FY 20

The DRS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program assisted 4,610 individuals with significant disabilities in obtaining competitive integrated employment in the community. While this represents a 10% decrease from FY19, it should be noted that DRS had 34 vacant rehabilitation counselor positions during the year and the COVID 19 pandemic caused a historical unemployment situation nationally. DRS continued the Community Partnership Initiative in FY2019, where 90 community agencies conducted outreach activities across the state involving more than 1,000 individuals with disabilities identified as potential VR program customers. The Community Reintegration Program helped 56 individuals with disabilities move from nursing facilities to their own home in the community. This represents a 50% decrease from FY19, however DRS continues to work with Centers for Independent Living across the state to make these important transitions a reality. The Home Services Program (HSP) provided services to 31,278 individuals with significant disabilities in FY2020, about 4% more than the figure of 29,967 individuals from the prior fiscal year. HSP customers receive assistance with activities of daily living such as dressing, bathing and cooking that enable them to remain in their own homes.

Over 41,000 individual providers work with HSP customers to ensure that they receive services in a safe and clean environment. The Secondary Transitional Experience Program (STEP) provided preemployment transition services (PTS) to over 10,000 high school students with disabilities in FY2020. STEP is a partnership with local school districts and cooperative which provides work-based learning experiences, job exploration counseling and workplace readiness training to students in order to enhance their opportunities for employment after leaving high school. The Bureau of Blind Services (BBS) assisted 153 individuals who are blind or visually impaired in achieving competitive integrated employment in FY2020. In addition to rehabilitation counseling, BBS also provides orientation and mobility training, as well as training from rehabilitation instructors which prepare blind individuals for employment.

BEST, Inc. – Adult, Dislocated Workers and Youth
Program Year 2018 (July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019)

Incumbent Worker Training

For Program Year 2020 a total of 139 employees were trained through the Incumbent Worker Training program. Total expenditures and obligations for the year ending June 30, 2020 were \$122,531.88.

Rapid Response

Covid provided some challenges in the Spring of 2020 with providing Rapid Response Services. Working with DCEO a virtual presentation was developed in order to provide the necessary information while also recognizing the need to social distance for the health and wellbeing of DCEO, IDES, and BEST staff. In total, PY19 saw permanent layoffs of over 990 employees. Layoffs included the full closures of: Energizer in Dixon, Compliance Coils in Chadwick, Covia (3 locations in La Salle County), Mendota Lutheran Home, Del Monte in Mendota, Vistra Energy in Hennepin, Elizabeth Nursing Home in Elizabeth. And smaller layoffs happening at US Silica in Ottawa, Mennies Machine in Mark along with the relocation of Cater Motoring to Wisconsin (employees transferred to new location). Additional CoVid 19 temporary layoffs were also experienced with no Rapid Response being necessary.

Workshops for the Illinois Department of Human Services

Workshops were held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month, from July to November, and then in January and February. Subsequent workshops were cancelled due to COVID-19. Attendance at each workshop averaged between 5 and 10 people per month.

Topics covered included, identifying skills, networking, and resume preparation. Additional topics are covered as they arise among participants; such as interviewing, job fair etiquette, etc. Staff also discuss those employers most likely to employ people who have been out of the job market for a period of time. Invitations to the workshops are mailed out by DHS staff to clients for each month.

Employer Conference

We held the Sixteenth Annual Employer Conference on October 4, 2019 at the Mendota Civic Center. Approximately seventy-six (76) people were in attendance. Presentations included: *Legalization of Recreational Marijuana* presented by Jeffery Risch, Attorney at Law, and Trauma in the Workplace by Mark Sanders.

Education Outreach Program – Lee Ogle Whiteside Regional Office of Education

Provides youth with academic instruction toward completion of high school equivalency, career information, work-based learning, job search assistance, supportive service and training for in-demand occupations

Services are provided to youth ages 17-24 who have dropped from school and live in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties.

The program served 95 youth this year. Site locations include Sterling, Oregon and SVCC

Step Ahead – Henry Bureau Regional Office of Education

Provides youth with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate and also provides work-based learning opportunities

Instruction is provided, usually one-on-one, at the local library in each youth's community. Youth are 17-24 years old, have dropped from school and live in Bureau County.

Program served 10 youth this year

Regional Work Study – Regional Office of Education #35

Provides youth from Putnam and LaSalle counties with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma and also provides employment opportunities

Instruction is provided at IVCC in Oglesby, IVCC in Ottawa and at the library in Mendota. Youth are 16-21 years old and have dropped from school.

Program served 28 youth this year

Work in The Real World

Annual career informational fair for high school students

Event is held at Sauk Valley Community College

253 students registered for the event from schools in Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Carroll and Bureau counties

Over 40 employers and educators provided information about careers in Agriculture, Architecture, Art, Building Trades, Business, Computer Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Digital Arts, Education, Engineering, Entrepreneurial, Health Care, Hospitality, Human Services, Manufacturing, Mechanics, Military, Music, Nursing and Logistics.

Adult Redeploy Workshops

BEST partners with LaSalle County Probation to provide Job Search workshops for job-ready clients referred by the department. In program year 2019 BEST held workshops for 3 Adult Redeploy clients.

Tri-County Opportunities Council

Established in 1965 by a group of concerned citizens in the counties of Lee, Ogle and Whiteside, Tri-County has grown to serve a total of nine counties- Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside. Our mission is to investigate the impact of poverty throughout our nine county service area and to work, in partnership with individuals, families and communities to provide opportunities that supports movement towards stability and self-sufficiency. Our organization does this through a variety of programs. All programs are income based and require an application.

The following services are available to low income households:

Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Provides comprehensive needs assessment, information and referrals and numerous case management programs to eligible customers to obtain self-sufficiency for employment, youth, education, housing, medical and emergency needs.

Offers various housing programs to those facing homelessness or on the verge of becoming homeless. Annually awards education scholarships to income eligible service area residents attending an Illinois institution of higher learning.

Bureau County Food Pantry- Provides food to meet meals gaps to families residing in Bureau County. COVID 19 programs are available in the areas of housing, health, food assistance and transportation needs for those who have been laid off, had a reduction of work hours or have been quarantined due to Covid 19.

Low Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

Makes a one- time payment to the utility company. Repair or replace furnaces to homeowners who are current on their mortgage and taxes. Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) is designed to help clients’ pay their own bill with a manageable budget bill.

Illinois Home Weatherization Program

Make homes more energy efficient, provide safe heating equipment, if needed, replace furnace and provide clients with safety equipment.

Foster Grandparent Program

Provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for those in the lower income range who are 55 years old and older. This program offers supportive person-to-person services to at risk children in reading, math, spelling, art and other constructive projects.

Head Start/Early-Head Start Program

These programs are federal programs that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent engagement services to children from birth to 5 years of age, expectant mothers, and their families.

Tri-County Opportunities Council has offices in nine counties and information regarding our sites can be found on our website at www.tcochelps.org. or by calling our main office at: 800-323-5434 or 815-625-7830

The following chart represents the number of students receiving financial support from NCI Works for Program Year 2018.

Provider	Number of Students	Amount Spent
Illinois Valley Community College	117	286,300.50
Sauk Valley Community College	78	187,425.43
Kishwaukee College	10	49,113.03
Highland Community College	9	13,486.50
Midwest Technical Institute	8	59,325.00
Methodist Medical Center - College of Nursing	4	24,705.00
Rasmussen College	4	9,905.00
Rock Valley College	4	16,975.00
Blackhawk College	3	7,253.70
Dental Assisting Technology	3	8,000.00
Eastern Iowa Community College District	2	2,534.50
Clinton Community College	1	4,877.98
Carl Sandburg College	2	8,735.16
Illinois Central College	2	
Advantage Driver Training	1	4,100.00
Colorado State University	1	
DePaul University	1	
Illinois Welding School	1	
Joliet Junior College	1	
Lincoln	1	
Northern Illinois University	1	
Trinity College of Nursing and Health Sciences	1	13,500.00
Career Step	1	3,699.00
	256	699935.8

Chief Elected Officials for WIA #4

Represented by:

Marshann Entwistle, Chairman
Bureau County Board

Kevin Reibel, Chairman
Carroll County Board

Scott Toot, Chairman
Jo Daviess County Board

Jim Olson, Chairman
LaSalle County Board

John Nicholson, Chairman
Lee County Board

John Frinfrock, Chairman
Ogle County Board

Steven Malavolti, Chairman
Putnam County Board

James Duffy, Chairman
Whiteside County Board

Robert Albrecht, Member
Bureau County Board

Randy Freeman, Member
LaSalle County Board

Wayne Reising, Member
Ogle County Board

The following list represents local businesses that utilized services offered from NCI Works!

Allegion
Ace Hardware Dixon
ADM Mendota
Avonlea Cottage
Blount International
Bonnell
Candlelight Inn
Carus Corporation
Castor Home Nursing, Inc.
CGH Medical Center
Circa 1888
Coloma Township Park District
Community Bank
Compliance Signs
Dental Arts Laboratories
DePue Schools
Dixon High School
FN Smith
Franz MFG
Goodwill of Northern Illinois- Ottawa
Happy Tails Humane Society
Heritage Health
Heritage Woods
Honeywell
Illinois Cement
Illinois Valley Community College
Jack Mabley Center
IMEC
James Hardie
Jo Daviess Carroll CTE
Jonas Martin Well Drilling
KSB Hospital
Lee County Council on Aging
Lee County Health Department
LW Schneider
McKeown Group
Malcolm Group
Manheim Consulting
Martin Engineering
Maze Nail
Mennie Machine
Micron
Mineral Township
MightyVine
MTM Recognition
NICIL
North Central Illinois Council of Governments
Northwest IL Economic Development
Oregon High School
Ottawa Chamber of Commerce

For information regarding the Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) or any of their initiatives and/or projects, contact:

Carrie Folken, Executive Director

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. • 815 N Orlando Smith Ave, Rm C-328

Oglesby, IL 61348

815-224-0375

Carrie_folken@best-inc.org



Ray O Vac (Energizer)
 Rochelle - City of
 Rochelle - Economic Development
 Ryder
 Peagus Special Riders
 P&P
 PPG/Metokot
 Putnam County Schools
 Perry Memorial Hospital
 Pet Supplies Plus
 PGI
 Raily Law Office
 Rock Falls Chamber
 Rural King
 Sauk Valley Community College
 Sauk Valley Food Bank
 Savanna Market Place
 Shelby Township Library
 Sinnissippi Center
 Spring Lake Pool
 Starved Rock Center
 Sterling Schools Foundation
 Sterling Township
 Steril ALM
 Stewart Heating and Air Conditioning
 SuperValu
 Team Products
 Teen Turf
 Tri-County Opportunity Council

T&T Concrete and Handyman Services
 Union Grove Township
 UPM
 US Fish & Wildlife
 US Foods
 Vactor
 Viakable Manufacturing
 WalMart DC
 Whiteside Senior Center
 Wiggins Computing
 Woods Equipment (Blount International)

The Partners of NCI Works provide a variety of services, free of charge, to area business. From recruiting assistance to incumbent worker training. The partners of NCI Works are here to assist you with you workforce needs.

For information on NCI Works Employer Services contact Dianna Schuler at 815-640-9406, or email her at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org.

Number of individuals enrolled in services in Program Year 2019

	Enrolled	Exited
Youth	231	84
Adults	216	87
Dislocated Workers	120	60
Universal Services offered to the general public		1334

Economic Impact on the Communities from BEST exits for Program Year 2019

Adults	77 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$3,126,595.00
Average Annual Wage	\$ 40,605.13
Dislocated Workers	73 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$2,358,169.24
Average Annual Wage	\$32,303.69

Northwest Central Illinois Works Membership

James A. Andreoni

Attorney At Law
Perona, Peterlin, Andreoni & Brolley, LLC

Dave Argubright

Business Agent, Carpenters Local #195
Illinois Valley Building Trades

Ed Bochniak

Executive Director
Carroll County Housing Authority

Mary Boogemans

H.R. Generalist II
Advantage Logistics

Linda Burt

Vice President of Quality & Community Services
St. Margaret's Health

Debbie Clausen

HR Administrator
LMK Technologies

Dr. Jerry Corcoran

President
Illinois Valley Community College

Marcia Derrer

Executive Director
Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency

Sara Escatel

Adult Education Director
Illinois Valley Community College

Dan Fitzgerald

Director of Programs and Services
Horizon House of Illinois Valley, Inc.

Abby Farrell

Director of HR
Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

Randy Freeman

LaSalle County Board

Janet Graham

Local Office Administrator
IL Dept. of Human Services

Jill Guynn

County Director
University of Illinois Extension (Bureau,
LaSalle, Marshall & Putnam Counties
Unit)

Patricia Head

Controller
F. N. Smith Corporation

Linda K. Hessenberger

Assistant Vice-President/Real Estate Loans
Central Bank

Vanessa Hoffeditz

Community Services Coordinator
Tri-County Opportunities Council

Deana Jones

Staffing and Training Coordinator
Wahl Clipper Corporation

James Knauf

Public Service Administrator
Illinois Department of Human Services

Rhonda Krueger

IDES Office Manager
IL Department of Employment Security

Robert Lentz

HR Manager
Walmart DC

Kevin Lindeman

Executive Director
North Central Illinois Council of Govern-
ments

Terry McGuire

Senior Vice President
Halo

Kris Noble

Executive Director
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

Daniel Payette

Executive Director
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Thomas Pigati

Owner
Pigati Builders, Inc.

Kevin Reibel

Carroll County Board Chair

Cary Robbins

Manager of Human Resources
Sterling Steel Company, LLC

Len Saunders

Business Representative/Organizer
Carpenters Union Local #790

John Spencer

President/General Manager
Starved Rock Media

Amy Strawn

HR Director
Ace Hardware

Teresa Strum

Center Director
Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Joel Torbeck

Program Manager
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.

Gerald Waszkowiak

Director
American Nickeloid

DeAnne White

VP/Chief Operations Officer
Sinnissippi Centers

Marcie Wiley

*Customer Service Manager/Assistant Lo-
cation Manager*
Rescar, Inc.

Justin Wiggins

Owner
Wiggins Computing, LLC

Program Year 2019 State Award Winners

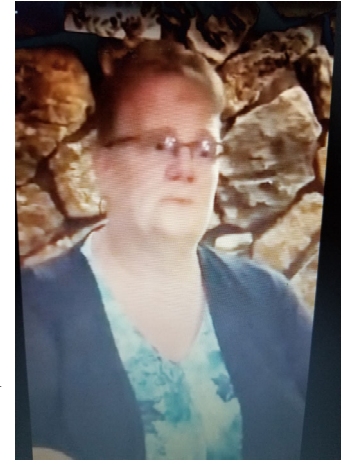
Each year the Illinois Workforce Partnership recognized outstanding achievements made by both a member of the business community and a workforce system customer. This year's awards decisions were conducted via video submissions. Below are the local area 4 winners with a brief summary of each winner and a link to the full video nomination. We extend our congratulations to both our award winners and encourage all readers to visit the NCI Works website to view these outstanding achievers. **Nomination videos may be viewed in their entirety by [Clicking Here](#)**

Business Leadership Award Winner Allan Pavlick, Stertil ALM Streator, IL



As president of Stertil ALM in Streator, Allan has made a commitment to making Stertil ALM a world class leader in the automotive lifts industry. Through incumbent worker training, and BEST's Incumbent Worker Training Grant, Allan has invested over \$100,000 in upskilling his current workforce. Allan has some very positive things to say about his experience working with BEST and how it has helped get the company on track to realizing a fully trained staff in Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma.

Customer Achievement Award Winner Joyce Doyle Rock Falls, IL



Twice a dislocated worker, first from National Manufacturing and then Frote Manufacturing, Joyce has personally knows the need for upskilling and continuing to learn new things. After National Manufacturing closed she received her degree in Computer Information Systems and went to work at Frote. When Frote laid her off she returned to school again to get her degree in Accounting. Classroom training coupled with an OJT at the Coloma Park District has help Joyce obtain full time employment while finishing her Accounting degree. Her story is truly inspirational.

<https://youtu.be/IDIKAodCCw>

<https://youtu.be/1O1jxwHOupM>

Congratulations