



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Winter 2021

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

Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education Updates

The Adult Education program at Sauk Valley Community College has continued to provide GED test preparation classes and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to our students throughout the year. Students have the option to attend classes in person or virtually. For in-person attendance, we restrict the number of students in the classroom as well as follow protocols

We have continued to provide opportunities for our students to prepare for college and the workforce. During the fall semester, we offered our College and Career Success Course. This class is intended for students who are close to completing their adult education classes so they are ready to enter college for workforce training. During this class, students determine their future career options by completing career research. Students also become familiar with college student support services such as academic advising, tutoring, and financial assistance while developing study strategies

We are currently offering our Health Careers Bridge Course. During this class, Adult Education students learn about the various health careers to make an informed career decision. Students review the academic skills needed to be successful in an allied health college training program as well as learn about the allied health programs available at Sauk. Students also have the opportunity to complete a virtual job shadow experience to receive a realistic perspective on what it is like to work in a health career.

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@NCIWorks

Also in This Issue:

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- Opioid Grant Testimonial
- Unemployment Rate as of December 2020
- Most Recent Labor Force Information

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Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education Updates Continued:

During March, we will provide tutor training to new volunteer literacy tutors in our Project VITAL program. Project VITAL is a free tutoring program for adults wanting to improve their reading skills, improve their English language speaking skills, or obtain US citizenship. Students are matched with a volunteer tutor who will assist the student in accomplishing their learning goals. All volunteer tutors complete 12 hours of training before being matched with a student. If you are interested in helping an adult learner improve his/her English language skills, please

If you have any questions regarding the Adult Education program at Sauk Valley Community College, please contact Sarah McFarlane at 815-835-6312.

NCI Works meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the following months. Due to COVID-19 we are currently meeting electronically during the following months:

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)

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).

**GETTING TO
WORK**

**Getting To Work
A Podcast of NCI Works
www.nciworks.org**

Getting to Work Can also be Found at:



Grand Shared The Future
NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS WORKS

Apple Link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/getting-to-work/id1423132481?mt=2>

Google Link:

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**For more information on this initiative please contact
Dianna Schuler at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org or
call at 815-640-9406**



The Beginnings of a Beautiful Partnership

Region 6 recently met with a local high school in Carroll County that was interested in offering their students a registered youth apprenticeship program in manufacturing. Being directly across the river from Iowa, the leadership at the school had been watching closely at what Iowa had been doing in this area. In conversation with the school and DOL's Office of Apprenticeship Programs, Region 6 encouraged school administrators to further identify the training that they could offer in-house and any other training that could be provided by the area career center or community college. Meanwhile, Nikelle Tellier, Regional Navigator, and BEST staff would begin contacting area manufacturers to gauge the level of interest they may have in working with the school to offer the on-the-job training portion.

On January 26th a virtual meeting was scheduled to bring the school and a local manufacturer together to discuss the specifics of how such a program would work. At that time we learned that a decision was made by the school to sign onto the Youth Registered Apprenticeship already in place in Iowa and their training provider for the related training instruction. The manufacturer will continue to work with the school to work out the OJT portion. Although this was disappointing for the Region 6 staff, in that a new program won't be pursued, we are excited that we were able to bring together the school and a local company to make this opportunity work for the youth of the community and provide a pipeline for the manufacturer's future needs.

For Additional Information On Apprenticeships Contact:

Nikelle Tellier

815-200-3196

Nikelle_tellier@best-inc.org

Dianna Schuler

815-460-9406

dianna_schuler@best-inc.org

Benefits Of An Apprenticeship Program

- Build a pipeline of skilled workers
- Gain workers with customized skills
- Boost retention – 91% rate in Illinois
 - Save money on wages
- Make a positive return on investment - \$1.40 for \$1 spent
- May be eligible for new Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit
\$3500 educational credit + \$1500 in underserved areas

Why Apprenticeships?

- 94%** of employers recommend apprenticeship to other employers. *Urban Institute*
- 1.47** back in productivity for every \$1 spent on apprenticeships. *U.S. DOL*
- 150,000** Apprenticeship programs in the United States. Over 400K apprentices across 1000 occupations in diverse industries.
- \$300,000** LIFETIME EARNING ADVANTAGE. Apprentice graduates earn more over their lifetime compared to peers who don't.
- 94%** of apprentices retain employment after apprenticeship completion.
- \$70K** Average starting salary after completing an apprenticeship program.

Apprenticeship ILLINOIS.com

Find out how Apprenticeship Illinois can help you create an Apprenticeship Program for your business today!

The Bureau of Workforce Center Systems, an American Job Center, is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. A 1-800-833-6842 number on this website may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment by calling TTY 800 325 0844 or 711.

BEST, Inc. Opioid Grant Testimonial

Submitted by Kerri Hicks: Grant Coordinator

I wanted to thank you again for this job. I'm soooo grateful to be a part of this program. I absolutely love my work experience, it's hard to explain so I'll just say, I know it was God that put me there cause it's EXACTLY where I need to be. Btw, I'm 8 months sober now, I know this is all a part of an opioid grant so thought I would share that with you. Also I have my OWN apartment at the Peru high-rise & I finally kicked a very toxic relationship for good. This program conjoined with God, perfectly flawed & the worksite, has made all this possible. To get sober, to stay sober & to get my life back on track. I'm forever grateful. I won't say I didn't hit a few bumps a long the way but life is hard sometimes, there will always be bumps, it's what I do with that bump that matters. I have fought hard to get here so a couple little bumps were just exactly that, a bump in my road. Today, I can tell you, I choose life. I am healing & growing everyday. You are all amazing & I know you will help a lot of people like me. Thank you

- Tara: LaSalle County participant

Access to services provided by each of the member

agencies is contact:

**NCI Works One-Stop Center
1550 First Avenue
Ottawa, IL
815-434-3111**

**BEST, Inc.
2605 Woodlawn Rd.
Sterling, IL 61081
815-625-9648
TTY: 800-526-0844**

December 2020 Unemployment Rate

Most Recent Available:

National 6.7%

State of IL 7.5%

LWIA 4 5.6%

Bureau Co 5.3%

Carroll Co. 4.9%

Jo Daviess Co. 5.20%

LaSalle Co 6.3%

Lee Co 4.9%

Ogle Co 5.8%

Putnam Co 5.1%

Whiteside Co. 5.1%

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

“Labor Market Demographics are a necessity for those of us involved in Economic Development. We use this information when responding to “requests for information” such as: state site searches, industrial broker inquiries, retail leads, grants, etc. Companies deciding where to locate need to know if our area has the workforce to staff their needs. Though you would think all would seek the same information, this is not the case. Even more important is having the staff at BEST available to help us find the information needed. All of this allows us to continue to attract new business into the area.”

Dave Noble, Director of Community Development, City of Ottawa

Additional Labor Market Information is available at the NCI Works website at www.nciworks.org and BEST, Inc website at www.best-inc.org

Labor Force Data	UI % Current Month (December, 2020)
Employment	121,358
Average Annual Wage	\$45,201
Percentage Change Over 2020 3rd Quarter	-6.12%
Unemployment Rate: December 2020	5.6%
Industry	3rd Quarter 2020
Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting	4,391
Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas	813
Utilities	1,665
Construction	5,717
Manufacturing	18,918
Wholesale Trade	4,673
Retail Trade	13,386
Transportation/Warehousing	8,284
Information	908
Finance/Insurance	3,414
Real Estate/Rental and Leasing	1,220
Professional Science/Technical	3,272
Management	350
Administrative Support	4,680
Educational	10,418
Health Care/Social Assistance	14,296
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	1,465
Accommodation/Food Service	10,008
Other Services	5,902
Public Administration	7,574
Unclassified	1
Total All Industries	121,358
LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2020Q3)	