



Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WORKS

Winter 2022

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

Dr Matt Seaton, VP of Business Services and Finance at IVCC, Participates in a 2 Part Video Series for the Podcast Getting to Work!

At the beginning of the new program year 2021 (July 1, 2021) our podcast series Getting to Work added the ability to do 6 video recordings in addition to our usual audio podcast. This winter Dr. Matt Seaton, VP of Business Services and Finance at IVCC, agreed to be a part of those videos and talked about Careers in Education, and Pathways in Education through the community college system. Dr Seaton's personal story is covered in the Careers in Education episode which is both interesting and inspiring. For anyone that may have started their post-secondary education believing they would go in one direction only to end up on an entirely different path Dr Seaton's story will hit home. You can view this 2 part series, and all the other videos, on the BEST/LWIA 4 YouTube channel by searching for best inc lwia 4. Or you can use the links below to connect.

Careers in Education can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKsqn7zMLIU&t=54s>

Pathways in Education can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_qFzOFkekQ&t=1s

Other videos in the Getting to Work series, and our job search assistance videos as well, can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCChrKG1OvjeA-j-0VcPJ5w>

We wish to thank all the guests that agreed to be on camera for their podcast recording and encourage everyone to subscribe to the channel.



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@NCIWorks

Also in This Issue:

- Extension of Apprenticeship Grant
- Area-wide Drive Thru Job Fair
- Paid Work Experience Assists Youth on Career Pathway
- Quarter 4, 2021 LMI

TRI-COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL

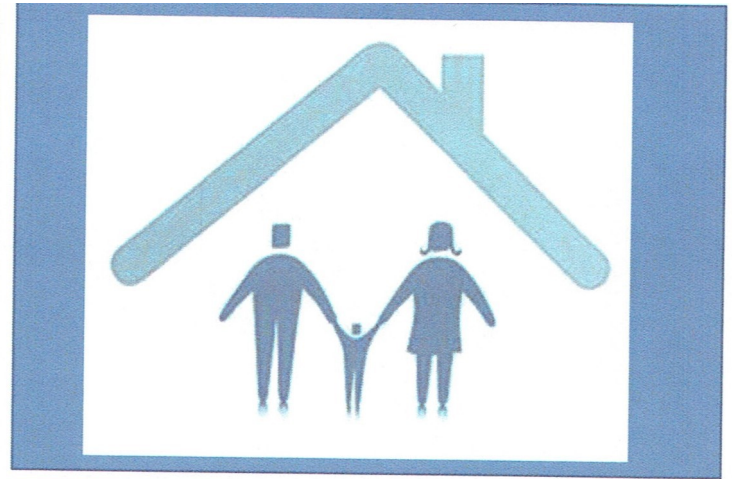
COVID HOUSING PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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Are you currently in rental arrears due to the loss of income as the result to COVID-19: loss of income, laid off, hours reduced, furloughed?

We may be able to help!

Eligible households may receive financial assistance towards their rent arrears payable directly to their landlord.



Bureau/Putnam County Out-
reach Worker:
(815)875-6064

80% Area Median Income (Yearly Income)

| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bureau | \$40,250 | \$46,000 | \$51,750 | \$57,500 | \$62,100 | \$66,700 | \$71,300 | \$75,900 |
| Putnam | \$45,550 | \$52,050 | \$58,550 | \$65,050 | \$70,300 | \$75,500 | \$80,700 | \$85,900 |

If you are income eligible based on the guidelines above) contact an Outreach Worker to make an appointment for assistance.

www.tcochelps.org

Building Opportunities to Transform Communities.

Apprenticeship Grant Receives Second Extension Through June 2022

The apprenticeship grant serving Economic Development Region 6 that provides navigator assistance to area businesses has been extended through June 30, 2022. The extension will allow Nikelle Tellier, Apprenticeship Navigator additional time to work with area businesses that are currently working on establishing an apprenticeship program for their employees. Nikelle currently serves a 10 county area and has been responsible for outreach to area businesses and coordination of efforts with the US Department of Labor in the drafting and acceptance of apprenticeship standards customized to those businesses' training needs.

NCI Works meets at 12:00 p.m. on the 1st 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:



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

Google Link:

https://playmusic.app.goo.gl/?ibi=com.google.PlayMusic&isi=691797987&ius=googleplaymusic&apn=com.google.android.music&link=https://play.google.com/music/m/Igmfuzfi6eos7fcwdul543lf334?t%3DGetting_To_Work%26pcampaignid%3DMKT-na-all-co-pr-mu-pod-16

For more information on this initiative please contact

Dianna Schuler at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org or

call at 815-640-9406

Area Businesses and Chamber Support Drive Thru Job Fair Effort

In February Dianna Schuler of BEST approached Lisa Witalka at IVCC to see if she was planning a spring job fair and, if not, if the college would be interested in partnering on a district-wide drive thru event. Lisa consulted officials at the college and IVCC was onboard with the idea. Below are some of the specifics as to how the event was organized and how follow up will take place. BEST, Inc. would like to thank IVCC, IDES, Chambers from Streator, Ottawa, Peru/LaSalle, and Princeton for their assistance as noted below.

Business Registration development was set up by Lisa at IVCC so that contact from companies could be gathered for follow up.

Outreach to area businesses to share the link to registration: BEST, Illinois Valley Area Chamber, IVCC, Ottawa Chamber, Princeton Chamber, Streator provided packets that were left over from their own drive thru event the previous weekend.

Outreach to job seekers to make them aware of the event: BEST, Illinois Department of Employment Services, and IVCC.

Business response to event:

We had 55 unique businesses participate (this includes those that had participated in Streator's event that were passed on to us for inclusion) with 1 business (OSF) have 2 separate flyers: 1 for Streator and 1 for the rest of their area. Each company was asked to supply us with 250 copies of whatever material they wanted distributed. BEST staff (Dianna and Laura Olson) along with Lisa collated the packets. Bonnie Hayes (Career Advisor in Ottawa) also assisted with the collating of job fair packets.

32 job fair packets were distributed prior to the event to partners that had specific requests. Those community partners include: Public Aid, La Salle Co. Veterans' Commission, North-central Behavioral Health Systems, and IVCC Career Services.

An additional 32 were distributed the day of the event. Please note that the day of the event was cold, very windy, and it rained throughout the 11am to 1pm time slot we assigned to this event.

Leftover packets were shared with area chambers listed above and made available at the Ottawa One-Stop.

A complete packet of information is also available through the BEST website.

Follow up with the companies will be conducted at 2 weeks out from the event, and again at 4 and 6 weeks to see if they had any success in hiring.

Note: Event was held April 2nd. Although not technically still winter, planning began winter 2022 and the weather made it seem like it was still winter.

Paid Work Experience Provides Sterling Youth with Career Building Opportunity

Cheyenne Cantu of Sterling is learning job and career skills at her Work Experience at the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce through the BEST, Inc. Program. Cheyenne is a senior at Sterling High School. Cheyenne is pictured here with Bethany Bland, Executive Director and CEO and Sam Smith Program Coordinator of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's Open House that was held on Tuesday.

According to Bland. *"Our experience with the BEST, Inc. program has been excellent. We have had interns in the past and greatly benefited from sharing our knowledge with them. Cheyenne has been an awesome worker with a great attitude and a desire to learn new things. Her willingness to learn has been an inspiration for our team. Her helpful spirit has impacted our community."* Bland went on to say *"Cheyenne's development through the program will help her have a great career path in life."*



Pictured from left to right: Bethany Bland, Cheyenne Cantu, and Same Smith

Access to services provided by each of the member agencies is available by contacting:

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

**BEST, Inc.
2605 Woodlawn Rd.
Sterling, IL 61081
815-625-9648**

February 2022 Unemployment Rate

Most Recent Available:

National 4.1%

State of IL 5.0%

LWIA 4 5.4%

Bureau Co 5.4%

Carroll Co. 4.5%

Jo Daviess Co 4.7%

LaSalle Co 6.1%

Lee Co 4.5%

Ogle Co 6.0%

Putnam Co 5.9%

Whiteside Co. 4.5%

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 (Feb. 2022) |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Employment | 122,678 |
| Average Annual Wage | \$48,477 |
| Percentage Change Over 2020 4th Quarter | -1.1% |
| Unemployment Rate: Feb 2022 | 5.4% |
| Industry | 4th Quarter 2021 |
| Ag, Fishing, Forestry/Hunting | 4,340 |
| Mining/Quarrying/Oil/Gas | 792 |
| Utilities | 1,504 |
| Construction | 6,280 |
| Manufacturing | 18,907 |
| Wholesale Trade | 4,699 |
| Retail Trade | 14,107 |
| Transportation/Warehousing | 8,604 |
| Information | 828 |
| Finance/Insurance | 3,474 |
| Real Estate/Rental and Leasing | 1,365 |
| Professional Science/Technical | 3,554 |
| Management | 320 |
| Administrative Support | 5,360 |
| Educational | 10,259 |
| Health Care/Social Assistance | 13,805 |
| Arts/Entertainment/Recreation | 1,492 |
| Accommodation/Food Service | 9,699 |
| Other Services | 5,682 |
| Public Administration | 7,606 |
| Unclassified | 3 |
| Total All Industries | 122,678 |
| LWIA 4 Industry Employment Data/Source: Jobseq (2021Q4) | |