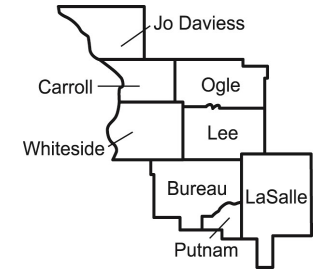




*Geared Toward The Future*

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS **WORKS**



# Annual Report

July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023



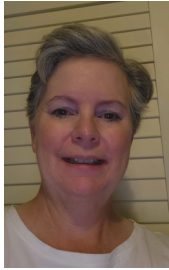
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Prepared by the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee of NCI Works!  
Funds were provided under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

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# Greetings from the Co-Chairs of NCI Works!



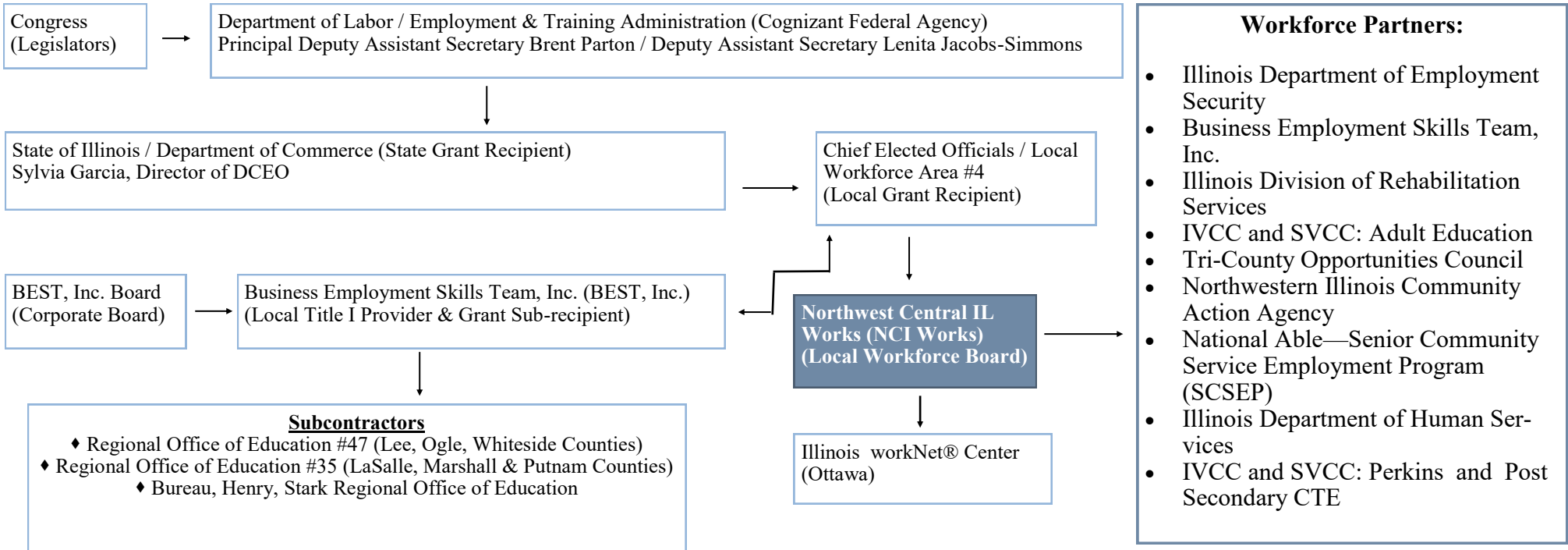
They say that the only constant in life is change. From the closure of 2 hospitals and the downsizing of a major manufacturer in one of our communities to a change in board leadership NCI Works and partner staff have been there for all of it. We wish to thank all partner staff for their continued dedication to the general public and business community. We wish Linda Burt (NCI Works member since 2005, Chair for LWIA 12 2012-2013, Co-Chair LWIA 4 2013-2022) a very happy retirement. As we move forward we trust that change will continue and that partner staff and the NCI Works Board will rise to the challenges such change may bring.



*Patricia M. Head*      *Cay Robbins*



NCI Works One-Stop Center  
 1550 First Ave  
 Ottawa, IL 61350  
[www.nciworksamericanjobcenter.com](http://www.nciworksamericanjobcenter.com)  
 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/adult>  
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

## FY 23 Statistics

### **Highland Community College Adult Education**

July 2022 to Sept 2022 - 6

Oct 2022 to Dec 2022 - 5

Jan 2023-Mar 2023 - 8

Apr-June 2023 - 10

### **Illinois Valley Community College Adult Education**

The Adult Education department created an approved Bridge to Careers program in fall to encompass all careers and allow Integrated Career and Academic Preparation Students (ICAPS) students to transition into various career tracks for stackable credentials. As a result, the career opportunities were endless, and students were not limited in their ability to transition.

The IVCC Adult Education Department enrollment numbers for FY23:

Total students served - 331

Breakdown:

ABE-High School Diploma students – 147 and ESL students- 184

Bridge to Careers Completers – 16

ICAPS completers- 6

CNA -3

Welding- 3

Citizenship- 3

### **Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education**

Adult Basic Education (ABE grade levels 4.0 – 8.9) 49

Adult Secondary Education (ASE grade levels 9.0 -12.9+) 71

ESL – All levels 43

Total students (Unduplicated) 163

The Adult Education program at Sauk Valley Community College provided in-person instruction for the program year as well as virtual instruction for both GED and ESL students. At the end of the year, we served 163 students.

Some highlights from the past year include:

24 students complete their high school equivalency certificates (GED graduates)

1 student enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) ICAPS Program

The ICAPS program consists of dual enrollment in Adult Education and the CNA certificate program at SVCC. The successful completion of the ICAPS program results in the completion of the high school equivalency (GED), a college credential and/or college credits, as well as the CNA certification.

1 student completed the Health Careers Bridge Course

The Health Careers Bridge Course introduces students to the various careers and training opportunities in healthcare. By the end of the 8-week course, students will determine the health career they wish to enter. Students also develop study strategies, math skills, science knowledge as it relates to health careers, communication skills, and time management skills for college and career success.

5 students completed the College and Careers Success Course

The College and Careers Success Course provides students with the opportunity to explore their college and career options. Students will also work to improve their reading, writing, vocabulary, technology, and math skills needed for future college classes and for employment. By the end of the 10-week course, students select their college program of study and enroll in Sauk Valley Community College for the next semester.

**Partner Report  
PY 22 Report  
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

<b>Title I – Adult/Dislocated Workers/Youth</b>	
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.	516
<b>Trade Adjustment Assistance</b>	
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.	1
<b>Title II – Adult Education</b>	
IL Valley Community College (IVCC)	331
Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC)	197
Highland Community College (HCC)	13
Kishwaukee College	891
<b>Title III – Wagner-Peyser</b>	
Ottawa	8481
Sterling	14
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b>	
Ottawa	4330
Sterling	413
<b>Veterans Services</b>	
Ottawa	53
Sterling	1
<b>Trade Adjustment Allowances (TRA)</b>	
Ottawa	0
Sterling	0
<b>Migrant &amp; Seasonal Farm Workers</b>	
Ottawa	0
Sterling	0
<b>Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation</b>	
LaSalle	519
Sterling	81

**Partner Report  
PY 22 Report  
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

<b>Community Services Block Grant</b>	
Tri Counties Opportunities Council	1154
Northwestern IL Community Action Agency	1334
<b>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</b>	
Department of Human Services/ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (DHS/TANF) (LaSalle County Office)	2283
Department of Human Services/ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (DHS/TANF) (Bureau County Office)	644
Department of Human Services/ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (DHS/TANF) (Ogle County Office)	1032
Department of Human Services/ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (DHS/TANF) (Whiteside County Office)	1290
<b>Senior Community Services Employment Program</b>	
NAPCA/National Able	8
<b>Career and Technical Education</b>	
IL Valley Community College (IVCC)	5417
Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC)	1280
Highland Community College (HCC)	182
Kishwaukee College	3422

**BEST, Inc. – Adult, Dislocated Workers, Youth and Business Services**  
 Program Year 2022 (July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023)

**Business Services**

Staff engaged with 1,324 area business resulting in 3 On-the-Job trainings and 16 Incumbent Worker Training projects that served 342 employees with a cost per employee of \$316,27. Other services provided included Labor Market Information, subsidized work experience, and apprenticeship development guidance with connection to the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.

**Rapid Response**

PY 22 saw 3 Rapid Response Events: Owens Illinois in Streator in December, St. Margaret’s Health in Peru in January, and St. Margaret’s Health in Spring Valley in June. BEST, Inc., IDES, and DCEO Office of Employment and Training were on hand to give impacted employees information on services.

**Education Outreach Program – Lee Ogle Whiteside Regional Office of Education #47**

Lee Ogle Whiteside Regional Office of Education provides youth with academic instruction toward completion of their IL High School Diploma (High School Equivalency), career information, job search assistance, supportive service, training for in-demand occupations and case management. Services are provided to youth ages 17-24 who have dropped from high school and live in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties. Site locations include Sterling, Oregon and SVCC. Program served 117 youth this year.

**Step Ahead – Henry Bureau Regional Office of Education**

Henry Bureau Regional Office of Education provides youth with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma or an IL High School Diploma (High School Equivalency), career information, job search assistance and case management. 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 30 youth this year

**Regional Work Study – Regional Office of Education #35**

Regional Office of Education #35 provides youth from LaSalle and Putnam counties with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma, career information, post-secondary guidance and case management. Instruction is provided at IVCC-Ottawa and at the library in Mendota. Youth are 16-21 years old and have dropped from high school and live in LaSalle and Putnam counties. Program served 68 youth this year.

**BEST, Inc. – Adult, Dislocated Workers, Youth and Business Services**  
 Program Year 2022 (July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023)

**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 2022 BEST held workshops for 6 Adult Redeploy clients.

The workshops cover job search basics, resume writing, and interviewing. Special emphasis is placed on helping clients learn ways to present themselves positively to employers, and to overcome any objections/biases that employers may have toward someone who has a criminal background. Each client receives a professionally prepared resume at the conclusion of the 3 required workshops.

**Number of individuals enrolled in services in Program Year 2022**

	Enrolled	Exited
Youth	231	80
Adults	229	110
Dislocated Workers	59	23
Universal Services to the General Public	1268	

**Economic Impact on the Communities from BEST exits for Program Year 2022**

Adults: 100 individuals	Total Annual Wages Earned: \$3,923,900.00	Average Annual Wage: \$39,239.00
Dislocated Workers: 56 individuals	Total Annual Wages Earned: \$2,763,416.32	Average Annual Wage: \$49,346.72

**Getting To Work: A Podcast of NCI Works**

[www.nciworks.org](http://www.nciworks.org)

Getting to Work Can also be Found at:  
[Podcasts – NCI Works](#)

Over 20,000 downloads!

**For more information on this initiative please contact  
 Dianna Schuler at [dianna\\_schuler@best-inc.org](mailto:dianna_schuler@best-inc.org) or  
 call at 815-640-9406**

**Tri-County Opportunities Council**

**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 be-coming 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.

**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 tax-es. 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.

**Ameri Corp Seniors Program**

Providing 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, are and other constructive projects.

**Head Start/Early-Head Start Program**

These programs are federal programs that provide 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](http://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 2022.**

Castor Health Institute	33	\$31,650.00
Eastern Iowa Community College	3	\$6,726.00
Highland Community College	10	\$29,9119.48
Illinois Valley Community College	78	\$1,009,998.95
Kiswaukee College	6	\$19,290.50
Management Info Tech Solutions	1	\$6,250.00
Midwest Tech Institute	2	\$20,031.00
Rasmussen College	3	\$24,600.00
Rockford Career Center	3	\$13,500.00
Sauk Valley Community College	91	\$255,779.78
Southern Illinois University	1	\$5,236.75
St. Francis Medical Center	1	\$14,135.50
Trinity College of Nursing & Nursing Science	2	\$23,670.00
Waubensee Community College	1	\$9,063.15
<b>Total Transactions</b>		<b>\$569,051.11</b>

## State and Local Outstanding Achievement Award Winners!



Martin is a resident of Bureau County and came to the BEST program in August of 2020. Martin had moved here from Florida and during this move, he had been battling a lot of stomach issues which caused him to miss a lot of School, which in turn made it very hard for him to catch up on his studies. Martin learned of the Step Ahead Program through BEST, Inc. from his Principle at Hall High School in Spring Valley. Martin says that the Step Ahead Program was able to help him more than School was ever able to help him previously. The one on one time was very helpful, along with the work being very easy to understand. During the time that Martin was enrolled in Alternative School/Dropout Recovery Services, he had worked with 2 Instructors- Ryan and Tina. Martin says that Tina was the nicest Teacher he had had since the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, he said that this Program (Step Ahead) was absolutely wonderful and a big help and was able to receive his Illinois High School Diploma on March 13, 2023.

Martin's next goal is to further his Education in Computer Network Administration. Martin talked with Kerri Hicks his Career Advisor in Princeton and then followed up with Illinois Valley Community College to discuss his path. Martin was able to enroll in classes for the Fall 2023 Semester. Martin will be receiving Tuition Assistance, Mileage Reimbursement and other Supportive Services the duration of his Training Program. Martin will graduate May of 2025 with his Associates in Computer Network Administration. Martin is very dedicated and motivated to make this next step and looking forward to where this Training can take him. Martin will be the state award recipient at IWP's annual awards in Springfield on October 21st at the Crown Plaza.

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Josh came to us during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. He had just graduated high school and was not sure about his career path. Josh began his Work Experience at **Sterling Schools Foundation (SSF)** in the summer of 2021.

Photo  
Not  
Available

From the start of his Work Experience, Josh demonstrated initiative and the ability to learn and work hard in the fast-paced environment of the SSF. He learned and demonstrated the ability to apply knowledge of the Foundation's mission, history, and policies. Josh learned a variety of tasks including print and video for SHS Alumni and SSF donors. Josh always represented the Sterling Schools Foundation in a professional and respectful manner. Due to his knack for production, he also assumed the title of Production Assistant and became proficient and responsible for Golden Warrior TV and Centennial Auditorium through the Sterling Schools Foundation as a Production Assistant. Duties included: game night assistance, set-up, tear down, camera operation, instant replay coordinator, sound engineer, graphics coordinator, live board feeds operator for football and basketball stadiums. game night assistance, set-up, tear down, camera operation, instant replay coordinator, sound engineer, graphics coordinator, live board feeds operator for football and basketball stadiums

Jim Spencer is the Executive Director of the SSF and Josh's supervisor had this to say about Josh; *"I think Josh is the perfect example of what the BEST program is all about. He stepped in with zero experience 2 years ago, worked hard to learn the many different aspects of video and live show production, and fell in love with the work. Once he got going, he wanted to learn more and more. Josh excelled in putting what he learned to work in high-pressure, fast-paced environments. He started this journey looking for direction, he moves forward with solid career path in front of him."* Josh has successfully gained employment in the production field due the skills he learned in his Work Experience all while attending Sauk Valley Community College at the same time. Josh will a recipient of a local NCI Works award for Outstanding Achievement.

## **Illinois Department of Employment Security**

The Illinois Department of Employment Security focuses on assisting those unemployed at no fault of their own with access to unemployment compensation and employment services, connecting with employers seeking to expand their workforce, and sharing data with policymakers looking to make informed, fact-based decisions that impact Illinois' economy. You can visit the Department's website at [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov)

- IDES administers the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, collecting roughly \$2 billion in employer taxes and disbursing roughly \$2 billion to unemployed claimants each year.
- IDES provides employment services to employers and job seekers throughout Illinois. IDES provides employment and wage data for research and the development of sound public workforce policy.

### **Ottawa One-Stop Center Program Year Highlights – July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023**

During the program year, Ottawa One Stop Job Seekers sought and received services for the following:

31 individuals attended in-person job seeker workshops, 6 attended virtual job seeker workshops, 197 attended Rapid Response Workshops, 57 attended Resource Fairs, 364 attended Re-Entry Summits held at the Dept. of Corrections.

591 job seekers received staff assistance on IllinoisJobLink.com website to get their IllinoisJobLink.com registration and resume completed.

35 Veterans received staff-assisted individual job seeker services from IDES Staff while visiting or contacting the Ottawa One Stop Center.

7621 total job seekers completed IllinoisJobLink.com registrations during the program year.



[www.nciworksamericanjobcenter.com](http://www.nciworksamericanjobcenter.com)

## **Chief Elected Officials for WIA #4**

*Represented by:*

Marshann Entwhistle, Chair  
Bureau County Board

Kerwin Paris, Member  
Bureau County Board

Joseph Payette, Chairman  
Carroll County Board

Chris Flikkema, Member  
Carroll County Board

LaDon Trost, Chairman  
Jo Daviess County Board

Don Jensen, Chairman  
LaSalle County Board

Michael McEmery, Member  
LaSalle County Board

Bob Olson, Chairman  
Lee County Board

Keane Hudson, Member  
Lee County Board

John Finrock, Chairman  
Ogle County Board

Wayne Reising, Member  
Ogle County Board

Charles Lenkaitis, Chairman  
Putnam County Board

Steven Malavolti, Member  
Putnam County Board

Martin Koster, Chairman  
Whiteside County Board

James Duffy, Member  
Whiteside County Board

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, Room C-328  
Oglesby, IL 61348  
815-224-0375  
[carrie\\_folken@best-inc.org](mailto:carrie_folken@best-inc.org)



## Northwest Central Illinois Works Membership

**Dave Argubright**

*Business Agent, Carpenters Local #174*  
Illinois Valley Building Trades

**Ed Bochniak**

*Executive Director*  
Carroll County Housing Authority

**Mary Boogemans**

*Manager*  
UNFI

**Lyndsay Bliss**

*Vice-President of Human Resources*  
Carus

**Danelle Burrs**

*Bureau Manager*  
Lee County Farm Bureau

**Dr. Jerry Corcoran**

*President*  
Illinois Valley Community College

**Robin Dedmond-Thompson**

*Public Service Administrator*  
IL Dept. of Human Services

**Marcia Derrer**

*Executive Director*  
Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency

**Sara Escatel**

*Adult Education Director*  
Illinois Valley Community College

**Abby Farrell**

*General Manager*  
Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

**Dan Fitzgerald**

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

**Janet Graham**

*Local Office Administrator*  
IL Dept. of Human Services

**Patricia Head**

*Office Manager*  
Rock River Energy Services

**Linda K. Hessenberger**

*Assistant Vice-President/Real Estate Loans*  
Central Bank

**Vanessa Hoffeditz**

*Community Services Coordinator*  
Tri-County Opportunities Council

**Deana Jones**

*Sr Human Resources Generalist*  
Donaldson Company, Inc.

**William Keene**

*Attorney*  
Keene Law Offices

**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 Governments

**Terry McGuire**

*Senior Vice President*  
Halo

**Dwayne Mentgen**

*Director*  
L/P Area Career Center, and  
Starved Rock Area Vocational and Technical  
Educations (SRAVTE)

**Terry McGuire**

*Senior Vice President*  
Halo

**Marcie Mulholland**

*Manager of Billing*  
Rescar, Inc.

**Kris Noble**

*Executive Director*  
Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce

**Daniel Payette**

*Executive Director*  
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

**Thomas Pigati**

*Owner*  
Pigati Builders, Inc.

**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

**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 Administrative Officer*  
Sinnissippi Centers

**Justin Wiggins**

*Owner*  
WCT-Midwest