

NCI Works Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 2, 2024
12:00 Noon

Mission Statement

Northwest Central Illinois Works' mission is to work hand-in-hand with business, service, government, education and non-profit organizations to enable workers to work and businesses to compete.

Agenda

Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue, Room C325, Oglesby, IL
or

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88511309680>

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Call to Order (Patty Head, Chair)

Roll Call

Approval of the January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes **(Page 1)** *(Action Item)*

Business Meeting

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports Ending April 30, 2024 **(Page 7)** (Jessica Green) *(Action Item)*
- Approval (Ratification) of the One Stop Center Certification (Carrie Folken) *(Action Item)*
- Review and Approval of the Dental Hygiene ASS Program at IL Valley Community College **(Page 14)** *(Action Item)*
- Approval to recertify the Nurse Aide Training Program at Castor Health Institute
- Approval to recertify the following Programs at IL Valley Community College
 - Accounting Certificate - Basic
 - Advanced Accounting Certificate
 - Advanced Automotive Technology
 - Advanced Renewable Energy Technician Certificate
 - Agricultural Business Management
 - Agronomy AAS
 - Auto Brakes, Suspension Alignment
 - Automotive Technology
 - Basic Automotive Technology

- Basic Dental Office Management Certificate
 - Business Administration
 - Business Management
 - Certified Nursing Assistant
 - Certified Nursing Assistant Refresher Course
 - Certified Production Technician Program
 - Computer Network Administration
 - Computer Networking Certificate
 - Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator
 - Criminal Justice
 - Criminal Justice Certificate
 - Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science degree
 - Cybersecurity Certificate
 - Dental Assisting
 - Driveability
 - Emergency Medical Technician - Basic
 - Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic
 - Engine Performance
 - Engineering Technology AAS
 - GMAW Basic Welding Certificate
 - GMAW Intermediate Welding Certificate
 - GTAW Welding Certificate
 - Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Certificate
 - Industrial Electrician
 - Industrial Electricians Certificate
 - Industrial Maintenance Certificate
 - Machinist Tool Die Certificate
 - Manufacturing Technology
 - Marketing
 - Nursing (RN)
 - Office Professional II
 - OAW Welding Certificate
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Phlebotomy Certificate
 - Practical Nursing
 - Renewable Energy Technician Certificate
 - SMAW Basic Welding Certificate
 - TDT Equipment Refresher Training
 - Welding Construction AAS
 - Welding Production AAS
 - Certified Nursing Assistant

- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)

Other Business

- Status Reports for Special Grants

Apprenticeship Activities

Tools and equipment for the Jo Carroll apprenticeship training have all been purchased, delivered to MIT and reimbursed at a total of \$34,968.74. Delivery of the training will be in the fall. MIT is in the process of securing a date for the Train the Trainer training at a cost of \$600 for 3 instructors. We worked with Sterling Schools who have signed onto an apprenticeship program recently certified by DOL with BloomBoard, Inc. as the sponsor. The Apprenticeship Illinois Reporting portal has been updated to include this new apprenticeship and it has been added to the Eligible Training Provider List as well. We have met our goal of 3 new programs established this grant cycle. We are also working with Borg Warner on their new standards and hope to have them signed and in place before the end of June which will be our 4 th new program, which will exceed our projection. We continue to discuss apprenticeships one on one with companies as well as holding informational events. At this time we are meeting or exceed all of our goals except 2: Number of apprentices in training – Goal was 17 actual will be 4 (due to the delay in Jo Carroll starting their training now in the fall of 2024), and number of businesses engage – Goal was 175 actual is 124 with 2 months of reporting left in the grant cycle. I am confident that we come very close to the 175 if not at least meet it. The PY24 Apprenticeship Expansion Grant application has been submitted to DCEO and we hope to receive their decision by the end of June.

Supplemental Grant

Project Number 1

The local area had communication with homeless shelters and other community based organization to discover that a lack of computers to be used in the growing population of the shelters was a big issue. In one shelter particularly, they have seen an increase of over 20 people for a longer time span then in previous years at this time. Computers would be used for job search, online interviews, and education to better advance the residents to be job ready. In this project 2-3 computers would be purchased for each shelter or community based organization with the grant funds along with essential supplies needed for the job search. Some essentials supplies would consist of resume paper, printer, ink, and envelopes.

The very nature of a shelter indicates that most of the population will be accessing these tools in the evening and overnight hours which little to no access in the community would be available during those times. It is vital to our declining workforce pool to put the tools in the hands of individuals that could increase that population.

Update: Computers were purchased and delivered to Sterling, Peru and Ottawa Shelters along with Perfectly Flawed Foundation and Safe Journeys. Job search handouts were created and were given to them to review with interested candidates as well as resume paper and envelopes. All organizations were very thankful for the supplies. - **Completed**

Project Number 2

Professional Development in the form of an inclusive conference is needed in rural Illinois. Although workshops are offered online for a reasonable amount, some workforce professionals do not have in their budget, money for an in-person rural professional development opportunity to network with like professionals to aid in common workforce needs. This conference would be centered on Workforce Professionals, Educators and Business that have common needs to help

assist today's and tomorrow's workforce. Some examples may include; mental health, job coaching, substance abuse, rural resources, and barriers to overcome. This conference would be paid for in total by this grant to allow for more individuals to participate on a very limited budget. Increasing the network to work together in a rural community will benefit all the interested parties.

Update: Completed – The conference was a huge success. JoAnn out did herself with all the organization of the event. We had about 125 in attendance and had a lot of positive feedback.

Project Number 3

Work Based Learning in the form of Work Experience for individuals who are not WIOA participants. This was brought up in conversation with the homeless shelters, the older workers, and also with individuals who may be involved in the court system. Allowing for a more structured staff assisted work experience to gain that positive work reference for individuals with all types of barriers. This would allow for individuals who may be having a hard time finding that perfect job/career to test the waters before jumping in. It also allows for the employer to invest without having 100% of the cost. Wages, Workers Compensation and FICA would be paid out of this grant. Number of hours, length of agreement and pay would depend on the occupation and the individual experience.

Update: We have 40-50 slots to fill. - To date we have/had 63 slots filled with \$ 229,548.89 obligated out of the grant.

Project Number 4

“Work in the Real World” career exploration. This event would be located in two areas of the Local Workforce Area. It would be a career exploration event with presentations from local businesses to attract young local talent to stay or return to our local area. Careers in occupations that are in demand or are facing a large number of openings due to retirement will be represented as well as the military. This event will target high school students and college enrollees. Cost of the event will be paid for by this grant along with transportation, giveaways, and lunch.

Update: SVCC had 1 events before June 30, 2024 and the EFE (Education for Employment) from LaSalle County for 7 events.

Sauk events are a Career and Technical Education introduction in April and then in June more of a business panel event from those CTE occupations. – April Completed and reimbursement for transportation has been completed.

LaSalle County Education for Employment (CTE) Career and Technical Education
97 students attended the Apprenticeship school Electrical, Carpentry and Laborers
57 students attended Illinois Valley Community College for a Union Trade Fair 3/12/24
25 students toured a manufacturing facility in Naplate, Illinois 3/22/24

Hall High School took part of “Reality Check” which was an interactive money and finance exercise.

June 3 thru June 6th – LaSalle Area Career Center is holding their annual Summer Showcase and

this grant will help provide transportation to and from the different hands on experiences. Students from the Area Career Center Fire Science toured the Oglesby Fire Department along another program did an Epsilyte (Formerly Flint Hills) career exploration tour (leading producer of efficient and highly insulative materials.)

For career exploration tools we will be purchasing 3 sets of virtual reality goggles and 2 years of experiences for career advisors to take to job fairs, career expos and leadership activities along with other supplies for those event. – completed and staff have been trained.

Administration costs in the amount of 10% of the full grant amount would allow for overseeing and managing this grant.

Total Grant \$452,153.39

- Grant Applications for Program Year 2024 Update (Carrie Folken)

BEST Success Stories ([Page 17](#))

Next NCI Works Meeting: September 3, 2024

Public Comments

Adjournment