

**Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)
Meeting**

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

12:00 Noon

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

NCI Works One Stop Center, Conference Room C, 1550 First Street, Ottawa, IL

Sinnissippi Centers' Conference Center, 325 Illinois Route 2, Dixon, IL

Or by

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88590979829>

Meeting ID: 885 9097 9829

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AGENDA

Call to Order (Patty Head)

Roll Call

Chairman's Comments

- Introduction of New Members (Holly Melvin & Ahneke Thompson)
- Resignations (Rhonda Krueger, Janet Graham, Gerald Waszkowiak, Lyndsay Bliss, Kevin Lindeman)

Executive Director Comments

- Membership Update and Committee Structure Update (**Page 1**)

Consent Agenda (*Action Item*)

Consent Agenda Items - Anyone may remove an item from the consent item list by requesting the chair to do so. Items removed will be discussed and voted upon immediately following passage of the remaining consent items.

NCI Works (May 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes) (**Page 10**)

NCI Works Executive Committee (July 2, 2024 Meeting) (**Page 20**)

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports Ending April 30, 2024
- Approval (Ratification) of the One Stop Center Certification (Carrie Folken)
- Review and Approval of the Dental Hygiene ASS Program at IL Valley Community College
- 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

Business Meeting

Committee Reports

- Employer Engagement Committee (June 4, 2024 Meeting) (Page 25)
- One Stop Partner Committee (June 18, 2024) (Page 27)
- Youth Committee Report (August 13, 2024, 2024) (Page 29)

Oversight Committee Report

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports Ending June 30, 2024 (*Action Item*) (Page 33)
- Review & Approval 3rd Quarter Title I Performance Report (*Action Item*) (Page 40)
- Review & Approval of 4th Quarter Partner Report (*Action Item*) (Page 41)
- Review of the Partner Referral Report (Page 42)
- Review of Resource Room Comments (Page 43)

Other Business

- 2024/2025 WIOA Performance Negotiations (Page 47) (*Action Item*)
- Approval of the Great Northwest Region of Illinois – Economic Development Region 6 Plan (as corrected) (Page 48) (*Action Item*)
- Discussion Regarding the November 5, 2024 NCI Works Meeting
- Grant Application Updates (Carrie Folken)
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)
- Partner Updates (Partner members) and Member updates (NCI Works members that want to update the board about their business needs)

Apprenticeship Activities Grant Final Report (Program year 2023 (July 2023 to June 2024)

Summary of Grant 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 4th

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 for our Employer Incentives – 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 130.

Summary of Goals

Reached our goal of 3 new RAPs and one additional one that was waiting for DOL signatures. All 3 have been added to the ETPL: JoCarroll Energy, Wolf Line Construction, and Bloomboard. This goal was at least met, possibly exceeded if DOL has signed Borg Warners and just haven't told us yet. Outreach events, we planned 6 and have had a total of 9.

We are short on our businesses engaged but that is to be expected given the time TPM took away from concentrating on actual engagement activities. We have 130 engaged. Through our planned Employer Incentives we have paid for training for 4 apprentices with Wolf Line Construction.

Update on Strategic Partnerships Activities

We worked with JoCarroll Energy and Wolf Line Construction to establish broadband technician standards for both companies. This was directly in response to the lack of fully trained technicians in our most northern portion of our workforce area. In addition, we assisted Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC) and the CTE Academy in Hanover with career exploration materials (virtual reality goggles for WACC and career exploration virtual experience for both CTEs as a means to bring much needed career and training information to the emerging workforce. The partnership with the 2 companies and the CTEs was an effort to keep emerging talent local and to make them aware of the skills needed for the higher paying opportunities available in broadband infrastructure installation. To support JoCarroll Energy's training needs we established a training lab and provided training funds for instructors at Morrison Institute of Technology so that they could be the training provider for the JoCarroll apprentices. Train the Trainer instruction was completed in June and apprentices will begin their instruction in the fall.

Update on Employer Engagement Activities

We are short on our businesses engaged but that is to be expected given the time TPM took away from concentrating on actual engagement activities. We have 130 engaged.

Key Issues and Technical Needs

Key technical issues continued to be reporting site matters. Tickets were created requesting assistance. All but the most recent issue have been resolved. Unresolved is where to account for the Employer Incentive delivered to the participating company. Additional assistance to resolve this issue has been sent to DCEO. Awaiting a response.

Significant Accomplishments

Over the grants life we were able to establish 3 RAPs and get a 4 th to DOL for signature. The status of the 4 th is still with DOL. Final signoff by US DOL on this 4 th RAP (the Borg Warner standards) will not be realized until PY24. The other 3 RAPs: Jo Carroll Energy, Wolf Line Construction, and Bloomboard all address critical shortages in our rural area, that of broadband technicians and teachers. Bloomboard specifically was important because it will offer current para-professionals in education the

opportunity to become certified elementary education teachers. Training for Sterling Schools Elementary Para-Pros will begin in the fall.

Supplemental Grant – Final June 2024

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. - **\$ 34,157.82 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. **\$25,938.91 - Completed**

Final numbers of Work Based Learning – **67 participants for \$210,866.07 – Completed** - Out of the 67 participants 20 were hired into unsubsidized work from their worksite. The goal of the Work Based Learning experience was to gain work skills and the entered employment was a bonus. SVCC had 1 event before June 30, 2024 and the EFE (Education for Employment) from LaSalle County for 7 events. **\$2,799.69 - Completed**

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. We also purchased a software program for Work Readiness to use in any new grants. **\$17,209.76 – Completed**

Staff and Overhead - \$161,181.14

Total Expenditures \$452,153.39 which was the amount of the grant.

- Success Stories
 - BEST Success Stories (Page 51)
- Next Meetings:
 - ✓ NCI Works Meeting – November 5, 2024

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment