

SUCCESS

Newsletter for Lake County Workforce Development

vol. 7 ed. 2

Who's Inside?

Work Experience	1
Talent Pipeline	2
Training	3
5 Steps	4

Lake County Workforce Development administers employment and training programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). A work, earn, and learn training model has demonstrated success in connecting customers to careers. WIOA funds are used to subsidize work experience as individuals apply classroom training in a work environment and acquire work place competencies.

Successful Workforce Program for a Career Changer

Melissa knew her job as a security guard wasn't her career of choice but wasn't ready to make a career change until she was faced with difficult circumstances. Melissa began working as a security guard at the Lake County Court House after graduating high school.



She was eventually placed at the Job Center of Lake County and for three years saw how the services and resources at the Job Center prepared job seekers for new jobs and careers. Melissa thought about a new career but didn't have the drive to make a life change. **"I just went day by day. I was one of those people who thought I'd just get a lucky break."**

A car accident in 2015 pushed Melissa to get serious about her long-term career goals. Laid-up with a broken-leg, she used the career exploration and assessments on Illinois workNet

(www.illinoisworknet.com), an interactive employment and training

website, where she further researched college and training in business careers. Melissa decided to enroll at Columbia College because it offered an accelerated adult learning environment. She began classes in 2016.

While in college, Melissa revisited the Job Center to find a job related to her education. Melissa qualified for WIOA funded services and was eligible for a subsidized work experience in a business office environment. She was accepted to a six-month subsidized work experience at the Lake County Coroner's office where her work focused on applying the new skills she was learning. Even before the work experience ended, Melissa applied and was hired by the **Lake County Circuit Clerk's** office as a **Clerk**. Melissa continues her education while working and is on track to earn an Associate degree in business management in the next six months. Melissa's story is an example of how innovative workforce development programs help individuals be successful in new careers.

Talent Pipeline

Workforce Development partners with multiple agencies throughout Lake County to create a talent pipeline with individuals at all skill levels and ages to meet the needs of area employers. Several partnering agencies share their stories below.



Tre graduated from Waukegan High School in 2011 but wasn't sure what to do next. He worked for a temporary agency and when laid off in 2012 his brother recommended that he apply to the **Youth Conservation Corps** because the organization offers an "earn while you learn" construction program. After completing that training in one year, Tre worked several temporary jobs but wanted to secure a career. Through his Career Advisor at Youth Conservation Corps, he learned about the **HVAC/R** engineering technology program at the **College of Lake County**. The HVAC/R program provides instruction in air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration.

Tre qualified for a WIOA Youth Program and started classes in HVAC/R in 2016. He earned service and installation certificates while learning techniques of the trade. While completing classes, Tre was a student worker doing HVAC/R tasks at the CLC campus with the maintenance team. Upon completion, Tre was hired full-time as an **HVAC Tool Technician** at **Johnstone Supply** in June 2017. Tre says this new job puts him in a better position to do what he wants in life.

National Able Network began serving Lake County residents through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in February of 2017. SCSEP provides hands-on employment training for workers 55 years or better by providing subsidized work experience with local nonprofit or government agencies.

Deborah enrolled in the SCSEP program in 2017. She had been working for her daughter's tax business but found the business was not enough to support both of them. The SCSEP program provided her with an opportunity to explore additional employment opportunities. Deborah was placed at the Job Center of Lake County in July 2017. She continued to look for and apply for full-time employment opportunities including a job at **Community Action Partnership of Lake County** (LCCAP) that she learned of at a job fair. Deborah was hired by LCCAP as a **Client Service**



Representative in October 2017 where she helps individuals apply for financial assistance to pay their utility bills. *"I've held corporate jobs in the past. This job represents an opportunity to help others. This is where I'm meant to be."*

Training Services

Workforce Development qualifies individual job seekers for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training funds. The goal is to help unemployed and underemployed individuals gain skills necessary to compete in the current market. Read on to learn how these trainees are advancing their careers.

Advancing in the IT Field



Ira was out of work for six months after being laid off in 2016 from a job as a Software Project Manager. He looked for work aggressively, attending networking groups and job fairs and utilizing the alumni programs of his former schools. *"My wife and I had a conversation that we might lose the house if I didn't secure a job soon. We have five children so we were anxious about what would happen next."*

Despite years of experience in the field, he found that he needed Project Management Certification to be considered for new positions. Ira qualified for WIOA training funds and enrolled at **Microtrain Technologies** and completed certificates in Agile and Microsoft Sharepoint, *"Now, I was able to tell employers about my training schedule and classes. That made all the difference in interviews."* Ira had several employment offers even before he passed the PMP exam in April 2017. He is now employed as an **Engineering Project Manager** for a digital industrial company.

Advancing in the Medical Field



Gaby worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for Brookdale Senior Living for eight years and was ready to take her career to the next level. As a single mother, she needed better wages, and she was seeking increased responsibility on her job. She attended an information session at the Job Center in 2016 and was eligible for WIOA training funds.

While working part-time, Gaby attended classes at **Northbrook College of Healthcare** and successfully passed the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) exam in August 2017.

Gaby was promoted to the role of **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)** at her place of employment in September 2017. With the promotion, Gaby's salary increased from \$12 to \$23 per hour. She can now give patients medication, place medicine orders, and interact with doctors and family members.

LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**1 N. Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
847.377.3450**

www.lakecountyjobcenter.com

jobcenter@lakecountyil.gov



Like us on Facebook.
*Lake County Workforce
Development*



Join our group on LinkedIn.
*Lake County Illinois Workforce
Development*



Follow us on Twitter.
@LakeCountyJobs



TRAINING • CONNECTING • DEVELOPING ILLINOIS' WORKFORCE

A proud partner of the
americanjobcenter[®]
network

An equal opportunity program/ employer.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request
to persons with disabilities.

Lake County Workforce Development has broken down the job search into five defined steps and delivers a series of workshops called "5 Steps to Your Next Job". Attendees receive the most up-to-date job search techniques and an invaluable opportunity to network with other job seekers and workforce professionals.



Justin learned new resume and interviewing techniques after attending the 5 Steps program. Justin used these new techniques as he applied and interviewed with 13 employers. Justin accepted a position as a **Safety Quality Food (SQF) Practitioner** at Neiman Brothers Company, Inc. in Chicago. In this new position, he focuses on the continuous changes involved with SQF Programs, hazard analysis and regulatory agencies. Justin recognizes the Job Center team for helping him keep a positive attitude throughout the weeks of his job search.



Dora was a stay at home mom living in California. She moved to Lake County in July 2017 to get support from family while she looked to reenter the workforce. Dora attended the 5 Steps program. The information she received and the camaraderie with other participants helped restore her confidence.

With new confidence and job search skills Dora met with several employers at the Job Center, interviewed for two positions and accepted a position with a manufacturer. Dora had experience in assembly but this will be her first job primarily using the computer. She continues to take advantage of free online programs to increase her typing speed and software knowledge.