

W.I.B.

(WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD) of LWIA #15

Serving the counties of: Fulton, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford

MINUTES

WIB ZOOM Board Meeting

Wed, August 14th, 2024

12:00 (noon) to 1:30 pm (approx.)

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/95290233096?pwd=OE5FR1JqUEQzQWUweW5lcTJMenlOQT09>

Meeting ID: 952 9023 3096 Passcode: 267046

I. Roll Call and Introductions – WIB President, Sam Lewis

Chairman, Sam Lewis opened the meeting at 12:01 pm with roll call taken by Recording Secretary, Theresa Kotte.

Board Members Present:

Zach Bell (ALCAST Company), Mark DeKeersgieter (CIRBN), Tami Foley (MCCA), Luke Gruden (Mahoney Crouch & Mahoney Ins.), Wendy Hess (Carle Care), Lori Johnson (Peoria Goodwill), Bill Lawrence (PLR Insurance), **WIB Chair**, Sam Lewis (Pridestaff) Todd Mundorf (NRG, Pekin, IL), Karol Nova (IDHS/Dept. of Rehab. Services), Brian Plath (Wayfinder LLC), Mike Shrier (Excalibur Seasoning), Steve Stewart (Morton Industries), **WIB Vice-Chair**, Steve Timmermann (Bank of Pontiac), Jody Wanless (IDES), and John Whalen (Midwest Region Laborers) LEDC (Laborers' Economic Development Corporation), David White (Connect-Transit) and Dr. Kamilah Williams (ICC-Dean of Adult Education College & Career Readiness).

Board Members Absent:

Brian Ford (Facet Tech), John Hubert (CAT), Jeffrey Inman (GPEDC), John Lutostanski (Zentech), Curt Oldfield (SRC), Rick Pearce (Heartland C.C.), Michael Predmore (Life Long Access), Mike Shrier (Excalibur Seasoning), Matt Watchinski (West Central Bldg-Trades Carpenters Union).

Career Link Staff:

Steve Martin (Executive Director), Dena Weth (Assistant Director), LeeAnn Norris (Fiscal Director), David Vaughn (Technical Specialist/Planner/EO officer), Kelly Schapmire (Program Manager), David Taylor (Systems Manager/Performance Manager), Shelly Purchis (McLean Co. Business Service Rep), Michael Burress (Peoria Co. Business Service Rep) & Karen Burkhart, Career Link Office Manager/Senior Career Planner of Peoria, IL.

Guests:

Warren Cheatham (One Stop Center Manager), Levi Beerup (IDES), Terry Bitner (IDES), Maci (Murray) Feucht (ICC), Chad Murphy (SRC), Tracy Polson (YouthBuild McLean Co), Emily Lee (DHS), Kim Stewart (Carle Care) and Johanna Wagner (Goodwill).

***Note:** Brad O'Brien, of SRC, has been absent due to health issues and the Board will keep him in thought during his treatments.

II. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of (W) May 08, 2024 ZOOM WIB Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mark DeKeersgieter and seconded by Brian Plath to approve the (W) May 08, 2024 ZOOM WIB Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

III. Participant Spotlight – Presented by Program Manager, Kelly Schapmire

Program Manager, Kelly Schapmire provided a success story of one of Career Link's 1A Adult funding (McLean Co.)

'Ashley Tinch enrolled into Career Link 5/13/2021 and exited successfully 3/27/24. Ashley started college right after high school with a newborn, dropped her first set of college courses because she was too overwhelmed and didn't want to fail. Ashley's Father died the next semester and Ashley had to drop classes to help her mom. Ashley completed her Associate's in Arts Degree in 2013 from Lincoln College. She knew she wanted to pursue the medical field so she worked on her own to attain her Certified Medical Assistant Licensure in 2015 at Midwest Technical Institute. She continued to work as a Medical Assistant for 5 years, but being a single mom of 3 children, she wasn't making a living wage as a Certified Medical Assistant. Ashley also put a relationship in front of her own goal and allowed her significant other to reach his as a police officer. After numerous times of breaking up with her significant other she had enough and decided it was time to move on and apply to a

Bachelor of Nursing Program so she could provide a better future for her family. Ashley was accepted into Methodist College 8 years after she finished her Associates Degree. Her first obstacle to being able to complete nursing school was when the financial office called and said Ashley didn't have enough financial aid to cover her tuition past the first semester. Methodist is a private institution they didn't offer grants or as many scholarships as other colleges. She began to worry if she would ever achieve her dream. Discouraged, Ashley reached out to her family for advice and her aunt told her to start school and God would provide for her. This is when she applied for Career Link assistance and was approved. Ashley decided if she was going to be successful in nursing school, her family needed some additional support. Ashley and her 3 kids moved in with her mom in her 2-bedroom apartment. They made a living space in Ashley's moms 2 bedroom living room. Ashley was a single mother of 3 driving from Bloomington to Methodist 2-3 days a week. After classes and clinicals ended each day, her duty as a mother began with cooking, cleaning and helping with her kids' homework. Ashley remained focused and studied in between classes and late at night, all while working as a medical assistant 12hr shifts 3 days a week. Ashley struggled to keep up with her academics along with working and being a single mom to her 3 children. She reached out to her Career Link, Career Planner, who encouraged her to utilize her peer tutors and her instructors for assistance. Ashley did just that and was able to get the extra assistance she needed to successfully pass the BSN program at Methodist. Ashley graduated from Methodist College in December 2023 and passed her NCLEX (State Boards) on 3/22/2024. Her license became effective 6/27/24. Ashley became gainfully employed at OSF St Francis Hospital in Peoria on April 15th 2024 making \$31.56 on the Surgical Acute Floor on first shift.'

IV. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Regional/Local Plan Revisions - Executive Director, Steven Martin

Executive Director, Steve Martin presented the Regional/Local Plan Revisions letter for the Board to review for the EDR #3 that was sent in March 2024. There were minimal revisions that were required and the Partners worked on the revisions. \$13K were saved by Partner's Core Team and Career Link staff, working on the revisions that were conducted without an outsourced consultant to assist. There was some discussion regarding the 100+ page document.

A motion was made by Steve Timmermann and seconded by Tami Foley of the Regional/Local Plan Revisions. Motion carried. Chairman, Sam Lewis expressed that he was very impressed with the ability that the Career Link Management Team Staff and the Core Team of the 17+ Partners were able to conduct the tasks of revising these Regional/Local Plans. Chairman, Sam Lewis stated that he was very pleased with the successful and accurate results and expressed his heartfelt thanks to Executive Director, Steve Martin and the Career Link staff and the LWIA #15 Partners with the fact also that there was a significant amount of saved tax dollars not being spent because of them working internally and independently, without hiring an outside consultant, towards working on this project. Vice Chairman, Steve Timmermann expressed the same sentiments as well as kudos to all Career Link staff.

V. Overview of Sub-contracted Youth programs – Assistant Director, Dena Weth

Assistant Director, Dena Weth, provided reports on the Youth Program Descriptions for 2024-2025 and the PY24 Youth Subcontracts: **2024-2025 Youth Providers Definitions**

Youth Sub-contracted programs are awarded through a Request for Proposal process.

In-School Youth Programs: 3rd year of grant cycle started on July 1, 2024. RFP will be released in January/February 2025.

These programs are designed to prevent At-Risk Youth from dropping out of high school. Each high school sets up a special for-credit class/program for At-Risk WIOA eligible participants. Students receive academic support for their regular classes, guidance towards post -secondary training, mentoring and employability skills training.

- Bloomington Area Career Center
- Havana High School
- McLean County Regional Alternative School
- Midwest Central High School

Out of School Youth Programs: 1st year of grant cycle started on July 1, 2024

These programs target youth who have dropped out of high school. In addition to working towards their GED, the youth are exposed to career exploration, soft skills review, post-secondary opportunities, mentoring and job readiness skills training. Some students enroll in a College level program (ICAPS) while working on obtainment of their GED. Examples of Post-secondary programs include: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Welding.

- Black Hawk College
- Heartland Community College
- Spoon River College
- Illinois Central College
- Peoria Park District

Transitional Youth Programs: 1st year of grant cycle started on July 1, 2024.

These Programs are partnered with the GED Recovery Contractors. Emphasis is placed on the Transitional staff developing a positive working relationship with youth from the beginning stages of entering the GED Program through Exit. Once Exited, youth are followed for a 1 year period.

- Peoria Goodwill- Illinois Central College
- Peoria Park District
- Spoon River College
- Western Avenue Community Center
- Heartland Community College
- Blackhawk College- No transitional grant assistance at this time

Work Experience opportunities are offered for both In and Out of School Youth. The Youth can work up to 29 hours per week and up to 1800 hours or 18 months-whichever occurs first. Hourly wage change-approved by WIB on Oct. 2021 Approval for hourly wage to be determined utilizing business input- regarding similar position/wage within the company. Wages for Work Experience/Internships will be determined based on a scale system-low end will be minimum wage (currently \$14) an hour up to (\$19) an hour. In instances where hourly wage exceeds \$19 an hour, participant will only be eligible to receive \$19 an hour (top end of scale). As of January 1, 2025, minimum wage will increase to \$15 an hour- which will increase the maximum amount of scale to \$20 an hour.

In School Youth - Drop out Prevention		
Subcontractor	PY24 Budget	Enrollment Numbers
Bloomington Area Career Center	\$45,000.00	20
Havana High School	\$46,534.00	Up to 25
McLean Regional Alternative School	\$63,000.00	Up to 15
Midwest Central High School	\$63,000.00	20
\$217,534.00		
Out of School Youth - Drop Out Recovery		
Subcontractor	PY24 Budget	Enrollment Numbers
Black Hawk College	\$80,000.00	Up to 20
Heartland Community College	\$77,095.00	30-40
Illinois Central College	\$20,000.00	up to 20
Peoria Park District	\$200,000.00	up to 40
Spoon River College	\$80,000.00	up to 20
\$457,095.00		
Out of School Transition Services		
Subcontractor	PY24 Budget	Enrollment Numbers
Goodwill Industries	\$130,448.00	Partners with ICC, Peoria Park District and Spoon River College
Western Avenue Community Center	\$85,060.00	Partners with Heartland Community College
\$215,508.00		

VI. Submission of Application for General Revenue funds - Executive Director, Steven Martin / Technical Specialist/Planner, Dave Vaughn

Executive Director, Steve Martin stated that Career Link submitted another proposal for supplemental for General Revenue funds. He stated that these funds do not have the same measures or eligibility requirements as WIOA funds. More projects are able to be funded in the LWIA #15 area using a 'wider lens'. These funds are referred to as the '25 supplemental' or 'General Revenue' funds. Some of the programs that were funded last year were a Career Awareness Program in Stark County and a Career Program GED program Moon Light Coalition at the Peoria Park District as well as

providing 10K towards the ‘Career Spark’ efforts with WIB Board Member, Steve Stewart. Next year, Career Link has an additional proposal that was submitted.

David Vaughn reported that LWIA #15 GED Students can really use training in essential ‘soft skills’ and ‘job search’, etc. The partners and Career Link met. A curriculum of workshops in June 2024 had a strong interest. The ‘Moonlight’ is the department of the Peoria Park District. They operate the GED program. Their goal was to serve 50 individuals. However, they served 81 in a very short amount of time. The goal is to serve another 80 participants over the next month. The program plans has some great enhancements especially for the south side of Peoria and the identified ‘food desert’ areas and in addition to the workshops, 20 of the participants will be selected for work experience opportunities and will to follow the work experience model as the WIOA for the Work Experience Model and Career Link would act as the employee of record. These results will be provided to the state. There was further discussion.

VII. *ACTION ITEM: New Post-secondary Programs & 500c5 Provider Approvals - Performance Manager, David Taylor

Performance Manager, David Taylor expressed that every program year, changes are presented to the WIB Board for the providers and the programs that LWIA #15 Career Link funds. As a reminder, the state produces a demand occupation list that limits what occupations are allowed. These are limited to occupations with a high growth potential. The training must be limited to occupations with job in the area that need filled and they must pay a wage that helps participants and families to become self-sufficient, ie, not dependent on well-fare. There are six (6) new programs added to the funding list: 1.) ISU-Teacher training program for History & Social Science teachers, 2.) Midwest Tech. Institute-Phlebotomy training, 3.) Heartland C.C.-Phlebotomy training, 4.) Eureka C.C.-Cybersecurity training, 5.) IL Central C.C-Diagnostic Medical Stenographer and 6.) Spoon River C.C.-Advanced Manufacturing (Industrial Mechanics).

David Taylor reminded the WIB Board, that Chairman, Sam Lewis will be signing these documents for approval.

A motion was made by Carol Nova and seconded by Zach Bell to approve the New Post-secondary Programs & 500c5 Provider. Motion carried.

***NOTE: Abstaining from the vote: Mark DeKeersgieter (CIRBN) and Dr. Kamilah Williams (ICC-Dean of Adult Education College & Career Readiness).**

VIII. Budget Recap – Fiscal Director, LeeAnn Norris

CURRENT FUNDS AVAILABLE					
	Carry In - PY23	PY24 Funds	Total Funds After Transfer	80% of PY23	Maximum Carry-In
Adult	\$ 1,069,384.57	\$ 2,556,312.00	\$ 3,825,696.57	\$ 2,205,049.60	\$ 551,262.40
Additional Transfer	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00			
DW	\$ 139,519.07	\$ 640,960.00	\$ 580,479.07	\$ 352,768.00	\$ 88,192.00
Additional Transfer	\$ -	\$ (200,000.00)			
OSY	\$ 318,068.42	\$ 962,544.00	\$ 1,280,612.42	\$ 1,540,070.40	\$ 385,017.60
Additional Transfer	\$ -				
ISY	\$ 460,151.57	\$ 962,544.00	\$ 1,422,695.57		
Additional Transfer	\$ -				
ADMIN	\$ 459,623.97	\$ 569,149.00	\$ 1,028,772.97		
Total	\$ 2,446,747.60	\$ 5,691,509.00	\$ 8,138,256.60	Total	\$ 1,138,301.80
EXPENDITURES				FUNDS REMAINING	
Adult Expenditures		Total			
Overhead Exp 7/31/24	\$ 82,970.22			Funds Available	\$ 3,825,696.57
OH Estimate 7/31/24	\$ 1,454,726.69			Exp & Obl	<u>\$ 3,253,595.71</u>
Participant Exp 8/12/24	\$ 33,179.08			Unobligated	<u>\$ 572,100.86</u>
Current Vouchers 8/12/24	\$ 689,216.95			% Exp & Obl	79%
Projections	\$ 880,232.53				
Contracts	\$ -				

IWT Funds	\$ 113,270.24	\$ 3,253,595.71			
DW Expenditures					
Overhead Exp 7/31/24	\$ 16,394.75			Funds Available	\$ 580,479.07
OH Estimate 7/31/24	\$ 274,557.88			Exp & Obl	\$ 485,954.60
Participant Exp 8/12/24	\$ 2,671.93			Unobligated	\$ 94,524.47
Current Vouchers 8/12/24	\$ 164,595.29			% Exp & Obl	79%
Projections	\$ 23,847.00				
Contracts	\$ -				
IWT Funds	\$ 3,887.75	\$ 485,954.60			
ISY Expenditures					
Overhead Exp 7/31/24	\$ 17,439.41			Funds Available	\$ 1,422,695.57
OH Estimate 7/31/24	\$ 348,647.05			Exp & Obl	\$ 688,643.36
Participant Exp 8/12/24	\$ 14,294.76			Unobligated	\$ 734,052.21
Current Vouchers 8/12/24	\$ 29,882.31			% Exp & Obl	24%
Projections	\$ 48,730.64				
WE Projections	\$ 7,500.03				
Remaining Contracts	\$ 222,149.16				
		\$ 688,643.36			
OSY Expenditures					
Overhead Exp 7/31/24	\$ 17,289.40			Funds Available	\$ 1,280,612.42
OH Estimate 7/31/24	\$ 308,371.95			Exp & Obl	\$ 1,049,122.67
Participant Exp 8/12/24	\$ 9,341.81			Unobligated	\$ 231,489.75
Current Vouchers 8/12/24	\$ 23,181.67			% Exp & Obl	76%
Projections	\$ 21,304.48				
WE Projections	\$ 13,248.17			Youth Available	\$ 2,703,307.99
Remaining Contracts	\$ 656,385.19			Youth Exp & Obl	\$ 1,758,514.23
		\$ 1,049,122.67		Youth Unob	\$ 944,793.76
				% Exp & Obl	51%
Admin Expenditures				Grant Available	\$ 8,138,256.60
Overhead Exp 7/31/24	\$ 34,158.89			Grant Exp & Obl	\$ 5,965,444.36
OH Estimate 7/31/24	\$ 453,969.13	\$ 488,128.02		Grant Unob	\$ 2,172,812.24
				% Exp & Obl	62%
WORK EXPERIENCE				MIN. TRAINING EXP %	
20% PY23 Youth Funds	\$ 339,975.60			Adult Training Exp	\$ 1,715,898.80
Expenditures 8/12/24	\$ 30,602.04			DW Training Exp	\$ 195,001.97
WE Vouchers	\$ 9,858.61			Total Adult Exp	\$ 3,253,595.71
WE Projections	\$ 20,748.20			Total DW Exp	\$ 485,954.60
OH Projections 7/31/24	\$ 53,976.26			Training %	51%
Need to spend	\$ 224,790.49				

Maci (Murray) Feucht, M.S. Manager at ICC Adult Education provided a brief overview of 2024 fiscal year and moving into fiscal year 2025. Overall, the program was up in enrollment and are now into pre-pandemic numbers. The fourth quarter end showing that ICC served 528 students which is up from 117 students from 2023. ESL was a large contributing factor for that growth. There is a large increase in immigration to the Peoria, IL area. ESL learners served had more than doubled this year. In August of fiscal year 2023, 80 students were served and in August of 2024 fiscal year, there were 160 students served. Currently there are approximately intakes of between 160-170 ESL learners for the fall. There is a wait-list of approx. 60-70 ESL learners for January 2025 due to the capacity or the number of teachers and classroom space so these are the physical constraints. It isn't for the lack of interests or for the lack of students, which is a great problem to have! Along with the enrollments, ICC Adult Literacy program is at 294 students that are enrolling in August and will continue to grow every eight weeks as GED intake in October, January and March. There will be an additional ESL intake in January 2025. These student must hit at least 12 attendance hours to be counted in the State reporting. This is the initial intake for this August. General program updates report that there was the first initial event that the program has hosted as a bridge in I-CAPS fair to create more awareness in marketing for the different types of programming that ICC offers. There are four different bridge programs: Healthcare, Entrepreneurship, IT and Manufacturing, that allows students to explore different career pathways and have some contextualize skills along with their GED curriculum. The Illinois Community College also attended and showcased it on some of their platforms. This was a great event that current students could get a feel for what classes they can be a part of for the fall. Program goals for measureable skills gains were met, set forth by the Illinois College Board, which was 37% which means that 37% of the students saw a gain in their literacy or received a credential. There was 2% of a short-fall though; only 63% of students received a post-test out of the 65%. This was due to retention where students moved out of the district or work schedules changing and not being able to meet enough hours to receive that post-test. This computerized test, is through the Community College Board Policy for Adult Education Family Literacy ACT is the policy to determine how people are placed into the proper instruction classes, etc. The goal for this year for this program year is to capture those students and the figuring out where the gaps in retention are. Regarding Staff; there is a full-time ESL coordinator, bridge in I-Caps coordinator, full time transition coordinator and Admin. Assist from part-time to full-time. Maci will be moving into a different position in the ICC college staff arena eff. Mon. Aug. 19th. Dr. Kamilah Williams expressed that Maci has done a phenomenal job and that she isn't leaving the institution. Her position is being posted and hope to have someone in place soon. She wishes Maci success in her new position. Mr. Chairman Sam Lewis asked what does the increase in Peoria area mean. Maci stated that there is an increase coming to the Western Illinois Dreamers as well as the Dream Center and they are newly arriving in Peoria, IL from areas like Venezuela and Angola which are some of the larger ones. There are some immigration trends that can be tracked. In May and June 2023 there were groups of individuals from the border that were taken to Chicago and then a trickle down in the rest of the state. Peoria was one of those hubs that received individuals. As the immigrants get more settled with stable housing and stable employment, education is the next steps for them. So either increasing literacy of classes, they are next steps in place. This is not slowing down and continuing receiving immigrants. Warren Cheatham asked if ICC is able to determine any overall trends as to what kind of educational level or skill levels that the ESL brings. Maci stated that the same assessments are done for ESL students but it is all over the board. There are students that have no educational background where as they attended NO schools in their home country and then there are some students that were a professional with a college degree in their home country. It really depends on the state of their home country and as to why they are leaving their home countries. . . some professionals may be leaving their home countries because it is a war-torn country and it is not safe to be there or maybe they are coming to USA to seek an employment opportunity and once they increase their English Literacy level, that will be a viable path forward. There are also, some that are working past the fact and never went beyond the 5th grade in their native language. There isn't just one particular trend. Many from Mexico, or Ukraine or the Congo. . . there isn't just one standard profile for an international student so it is hard to say what particular trends there are. Each ESL student is on a case by case situation. Maci is moving into the role of the immigration side at ICC International students.

X. Performance Report – Performance Manager, David Taylor

Performance Report - 8/14/2024

Update on Clients Served and Exited between 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

To date, **92 Low-Income Adults** were served and exited (We have more to exit.)

74/92 (80%) earned a credential – On track to exceed our **goal of 76%**

Credentials included 16 Associate Degrees and 21 Bachelor Degrees

Some occupational highlights: 53 nurses and 10 nursing aides

Our goal is to have **82%** to be working in follow-up. Currently **93%** are working. The quantity of high wage earners means we will exceed our median wage goals.

The top wage earner so far includes a single mom from Woodford County, who graduated from OSF School of Nursing and now works for OSF. She grossed **\$69,000** in her first 9 months as a RN.

Dislocated Workers: Over the last several years, the job market has been good in central-Illinois (low unemployment numbers), so we have not had the opportunity to train, or retrain, a large number of laid-off workers.

To date, we have trained and exited **only 7 cases**. (We also had 7 last year.)

6 of the 7 earned a credential, so we are exceeding our credential goal of **79%** and they are earning planned wage levels. The top wage earner was from McLean County. She earned an Associate Degree in Industrial Technology from Heartland College and is on track to earn about \$60,000 in the first full-year of work.

Note about the New Program Year:

The unemployment rate is UP and we are seeing a few more applicants for training. We are currently funding **16**.

To date, **71 youth** have been exited, but we have (61 May graduates) to exit in the next 45 days. Those additional exits will impact the preliminary performance numbers below.

Of the 71 we have exited, **29** earned a GED and **18** earned a HS Diploma, but 21 did NOT earn a credential. The percentage of youth dropping out of GED programs is concerning to us and we have made some changes to try to minimize this in the new program year.

Our goal, negotiated with the state, was for **72%** to earn a credential. I expect we will have 100/132 with a credential and so we are on track to meet the goal. However, youth have to work or attend post-secondary for their credential to count and it is not possible, at this early date, to make any predictions about what youth will do in the follow-up year.

Another performance result we have been struggling with is the Median wage goal. Our youth are expected to have a median wage of **\$3500** a quarter. Although that amount looks low, at least compared to the wage goal of \$8600 for adults, a majority of our youth clients, who only have a high school diploma or GED, work part-time and for minimum wage. In follow-up, a good portion are full-time college students and they don't earn a lot of wages. Interestingly, the current top wage earner is a client who dropped out before earning a GED. He found a job that allows him to earn \$60,000 a year working for an excavating company.

We did train a few youth to earn a post-secondary degree, for example a nurse and a teacher, and they are on track to earn strong wages. A few high wage earners, however, doesn't impact our performance, because the state looks at the "median" earnings (middle of the pool), as opposed to the mean or the mathematical average. The state wants us to encourage youth who earn their secondary education to continue to get more education/training, but their part-time jobs negatively impact our median wage goal. Report Submitted by David Taylor.

XI. Business Services Rep. Reports {OJTs, IWTs, etc.} – Business Service Rep., Shelly Purchis (McLean, Marshall, Stark and Woodford Co. & Introduction of new Business Service Rep., Michael Burress (Peoria, Mason, Fulton and Tazewell Co.)

➤ **Business Service Rep., Shelly Purchis (McLean, Marshall, Stark and Woodford Co. report:**

IWT Projects:

The new fiscal year has been especially busy! The amount of applications received for IWT at end of June and into July/August has been more than ever. So right now, its just pushing to get through the applications.

Apprenticeships: (All at Heartland)

- Carle BroMenn –Facilities Maintenance – continuing with student graduating in May
- Bridgestone – Industrial Maintenance – previously started by HCC, but newly starting for us.
- Westminster Village – Brand new for both Heartland and Career Link – starting with 2 CN.A students, but may expand into nursing students later. Starting small and will most likely grow.

Current IWT Projects:

- Umland – SQF – completed, but waiting on
- Alexander Mfg. – New equipment – new equipment not received.
- Watershed Foods – Leadership
- Watershed Foods –Advanced Refrigeration safety

Working on applications now for:

- Many more applications that I am working on to start later in the fall.

Networking/Other

- Are seeing a slight increase in layoffs

- Keplr is a planned layoff for approximately 100 people. Official closure date is sometime in November. Levi from DCEO is coordinating that one and I will attend to assist. Will do a rapid response closer to end date.
- LL Flooring – just saw that one hit the news late yesterday
- IRS – Adding a new mailing department to their current building – helping with hiring for that. Officially opening probably in February, but actively hiring now. – Focus on college students
- McLean County Chamber – Intercity tour to Holland & Grand Rapids Michigan
- Lots of additional employer visits which have ramped up in the last month.
- EDC – Workforce Development Committee
- DHS – Bringing customers to our Resource Room twice recently

WIB Board member, John Whalen asked about if there are any new funding sources regarding for trades for apprenticeship training or internships. Shelly stated that she has not seen any at this time. Steve Martin stated the electrician's union was interested in assistance in funding but there hasn't been anything further; Climate jobs and CEJA.

➤ ***Business Service Rep., Michael Burruss (Peoria, Mason, Fulton and Tazewell Co.) report:***

Steve Martin introduced the new Business Service Rep, Michael Burruss who is replacing Norman Griffin.

Michael stated his appreciation to Shelly for helping him during his new position. He stated that there are some things in the future that seem to be in demand that are foundational core skills and advance skills. The Industrial Maintenance is the Olympian level person. Liberty Steel has machinist and continuing with the electrical advanced training. On going dealerships Grimm, Lighthouse and Sam Leman. Hare Construction is starting a diesel apprentice this fall.

XII. Updates by Four Core Partners – One Stop Operator Manager, Warren Cheatham

One Stop Center Manager, Warren Cheatham gave some background that the WIB board responsible for overseeing Career Link Title 1 specifically but also responsible for looking broadly for all of the Partner Agencies that come together for the same purpose in Central Illinois. He provided an opportunity to report from the four Core Partners.

Karol Nova from DHS stated that they are located in Downtown Peoria and help with various services ie; employment services such as sponsorship for schooling, bus passes, vehicle modification, all that are eligibility process. 320 applications were received this past year. There were 77 successfully closures occurred in their cases

IDES Regional Manager, Jody Wanless stated that IDES has had an increase to walk-in traffic which is surpassing than the appointment. Across the central and northwest Illinois there have been several lay-offs so Rapid Responses have increased. Northern area John Deere and suppliers are laying off. IDES is stepping up to provide various services and looking to being able to provide UI and ES services on sight for any lay-offs.

XIII. Other Comments

Steve Martin expressed his gratitude to all of the Board members for their commitment and efforts, and reminded the WIB board of their re-appointment forms are due back to him soon.

He also expressed that the next WIB Virtual ZOOM meeting will be Wed., November 13, 2024 which will be at 12 (noon) to 1:30 and will be held VIRTUALLY ZOOM for all future meetings until further indicated. Chairman, Sam Lewis stated that Nov. 13th, is his Wedding Anniversary of WIB Chairman, Sam Lewis' of 47 years of marriage and 30 yrs. wedded bliss.

XIV. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

XV. *ACTION ITEM: Adjournment

A motion was made by Steve Timmermann and seconded by Brian Plath to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjournment time: 1:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

WIB Recording Secretary, Theresa Kotte, Executive Assistant
LWIA #15