

# Workforce In Action

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Located across from the Government Center  
at 500 Russel Court in Woodstock, IL,  
**McHenry County Workforce Network** has a  
variety of programs and services for employers  
and job seekers needing assistance in meeting  
the challenges of today's job market.

We are an affiliate of Illinois workNet,  
which is a consolidated effort to provide a  
one-stop system for employment related  
services in McHenry County and part of a  
nation-wide, grant-funded system.

DECEMBER 2021

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McHENRY COUNTY  
Workforce Network



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

500 Russel Ct., Woodstock, IL 60098  
[www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com](http://www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com)



# **McHenry County Workforce Network**

These are but a small sample of the successes our Workforce Program Participants who have taken advantage of the workshops, career advising, resume reviews, training opportunities and the many other tools available through the McHenry County Workforce Center.

See more of our workforce program customer stories at [www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com](http://www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com)

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## **Fall Job Fairs Connect Job Seekers and Local Employers**

McHenry County Workforce Network staff partnered with McHenry County College career services in two successful Job Fair events. On October 20, over 60 local employers met with jobseekers—both students and community members—to discuss opportunities for internships, temporary, part-time, and full-time work. Represented industries included healthcare, manufacturing, retail, hospitality services, and government.

Workforce Network, MCC, and division of Rehabilitation Services partnered with SHRM to host Disability Job Fair event held at Shah Center in McHenry on October 27. This job fair event connected job seekers with diverse abilities with local employers seeking good, qualified workers. In addition to facilitating these employer/job seeker interactions, the job fair was a wonderful networking event for employers and local service providers in McHenry County.

## **Classroom & Career Training**

We have six young adult customers enrolled in occupational classroom trainings. Three young adults are at McHenry County College for Business Management, CNC, Automotive Maintenance pathways. They are going strong with their fall courses and preparing for the Spring semester. Another young adult is going strong with her RN program at Harper college, and we recently started another young adult in a medical assisting program with First Institute. Our final young adult is in the Human Services Generalist program at Elgin Community College. We also have several young adults in the pipeline investigating trainings and, potentially, we will be starting two young adults in medical assisting training in the next few months.

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## **Program Participant Successes**

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### **Austin F** (zip code 60156)

Austin joined the MCWN young adult program in the fall of 2019. Over the last couple of years, Austin has completed a few internships as he explored different experiences to determine a career pathway. Austin's goal has always been to find full-time employment with the benefits. After the pandemic, Austin expressed an interest in shipping and completed an internship in that field. He successfully completed his hours and then decided it was best for him to take some time off to reevaluate his career pathway. After extensive career assessments, employment searches, and overcoming many obstacles, Austin finally decided he needed a place that would match his personal values. He wanted a company that was focused on the environment, valued their employees and not food based. After a job shadow, he completed a short internship at an environmentally friendly company close to home. He found the company's values matched what he was looking for. After first day jitters, Austin is now in his twelfth week of employment. He was directly hired on in early October, with a sign on bonus for excellent attendance! Austin said it was a crazy ride to get where he is at today. He feels he is valued, and contributes to the environment, and overall, that's what he has always wanted in his career.

### **Michael B.** (Zip Code 60156)

Michael was employed up until the COVID pandemic hit. He was out of work for several months after having been laid off from the low-growth industry of commercial publishing. He worked with his employer for many years as a Product Specialist identifying client needs and providing long-term tactical guidance to marketing department leadership.

Following his layoff, Michael immediately searched for employment, but he struggled for a while trying to figure out how to market himself in the COVID economy. Despite having a bachelor's degree and years of experience, he lacked the necessary credentials to be competitive in the job market. As a mature worker, he felt his biggest challenge was that he had a lot of experience but gained that experience in a time before there was any training or credential programs for the kind of work he was interested in and qualified for.

Michael inquired about the WIOA program and as a dislocated worker qualified for WIOA funds for training. With the assistance of McHenry County Workforce Network, he researched his career and training options and decided to pursue the high-growth occupation of Marketing Manager. He enrolled in, and successfully completed, COMNet Group's Digital Marketing Certified Associate Training Program receiving the following certificates and certifications: Digital Marketing 101; Online Marketing Certified Associate; Digital Marketing Certified Associate; Mastering Social Media, Mobile Marketing and Digital Strategy; Mastering SEO, Content Marketing, PPC and Digital Analytics; and Google Analytics. Shortly after successful completion of his training program, Michael was hired full time as a Marketing Project Manager in the management, scientific, and technical consulting services field.

Michael said the services and training he received through McHenry County Workforce Network gave him more confidence as a mature worker to find the kind of job that matched up with his skills and newly acquired credentials.

Hear it straight from Michael at <https://bit.ly/michaelbsuccess>

### **Janice “Nadine” Q** (zip code 60156)



Nadine was eligible for WIOA assistance after being dislocated from her previous position as a bus driver. She participated in CDL training with Eagle Training Services to obtain her CDL-A and qualify for a truck driving role where she could grow and earn a self-sufficient wage. Nadine is now working full time as a truck driver and is grateful for the opportunity to advance in her new career field.

*Nadine Q, back to work as a truck driver*

### **Gloriann S** (Zip Code 60014)

Gloriann applied for assistance from Workforce Network when she lost her job as manager of a fitness studio, a low-growth occupation in a declining industry. After researching her career/training options she decided to pursue training for a new high-growth occupation in the healthcare field. She decided on Medical Assisting through First Institute. Upon successful completion of her one-year training program, Gloriann achieved her NHA credential of Certified Clinical Medical Assistant. Immediately following her training program, Gloriann started new employment working as a Medical Assistant with a medical office in Algonquin.

## Where are they now?

### Mitchell P.

Mitchell was a past success story, and recently we connected with Mitchell to see how his new career is going. Mitchell is still employed with the Woodstock manufacturer as a CNC operator, and he has used his CNC knowledge to help reduce time at his job. See the picture below that recognizes this achievement. His employer has also seen great promise in Mitchell and has sent him for training in CNC programming, allowing him to continue to grow within the CNC career field.



### Cali R. Office Administrator: Miller Formless

Cali had made some choices in her life that were like many other Americans over the past decade. She found herself in the drug epidemic that resulted in legal problems. In addition, Cali did not have skills or health to maintain suitable employment even if she was given a second chance. She believed that because of her background she would have to take any job that came along. Before her recovery she felt comfortable working to make just enough money for cigarettes.

Cali's life changing decision was to participate in the McHenry County Drug court program. The next decision was the hardest. It was to complete the program. During the program she started to learn how to make better decisions which were needed to maintain her recovery. At the same time, it also taught her how to live a productive life that includes career and employment.

Cali graduated Drug court in 2015 which set her up for further success. Unfortunately, in 2018 she was notified that she was being laid off. The company Cali worked for was being impacted by foreign trade and Cali qualified for paid training through the TAA grant. Cali took advantage of that opportunity.

Cali was laid off 10/26/18. She made the decision to go to school through a WIOA Trade Act program. Cali needed to pick a career. Through an assessment process with her career planner at McHenry County Workforce she realized that her choice of an accounting career was not the best fit for her. She decided on office management. January 2019 Cali started her classes at MCC for Administrative Office Management Certificate training. She completed the Certificate May 15, 2020.

By June 2020 Cali started a Work Experience through McHenry County Workforce at Miller Formless. It was a temporary opportunity to get experience but after 2 weeks she received an offer for a position as Office Administrator and continues to grow her skills and responsibilities in a successful fit with the company. We at McHenry County are all proud of Cali's success.

See more of her story and where she is today in the video. <https://bit.ly/calisuccess>