

Workforce In Action



Training a Skilled Workforce for
today's businesses



Connecting People to Employers and
Employers to People

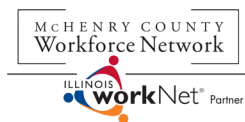


Developing Employment Solutions
for the future

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.

MARCH 2024



500 Russel Ct., Woodstock, IL 60098
www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com

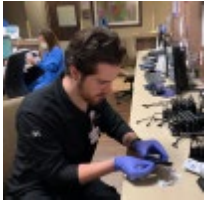


McHenry County Workforce Network

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

Project SEARCH Class of 2024



The third and final internship phase of the Project SEARCH program at Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital represents a pivotal moment for its interns. Departments such as Food & Nutrition, Supply Chain, Registration, Guest Services, Telemetry, and Mother/Baby are hosting interns as they head towards completion of the program and continue to gain transferable, employability skills.

During periods when they are not actively participating in their internships, these ambitious individuals dedicate their time applying for jobs within the community and interviewing, should the opportunity present. The confidence in navigating the job market and presenting themselves as capable and competent candidates should be commended.



As these interns stand on the cusp of completing the Project SEARCH program, there is a mix of excitement and anticipation for what the future holds. They are eagerly looking forward to securing employment and embarking on their new careers. The skills, experiences, and networks they have developed throughout the program will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for their success in their chosen fields.



Watch out McHenry County! You are about to get some amazingly talented, hardworking individuals!

5/21/2024 -Graduation at McHenry County College- details coming soon...

Work Based Learning

Kenny A. (60098)

On a referral from the recovery community, Kenny contacted McHenry County Workforce. Kenny had a background obstacle for employment. Kenny was successful in his recovery, however, like many others, he also had a background obstacle for employment. This was not an easy obstacle to overcome regarding employment.

Kenny had previously worked as a software developer. Because of his connections with the recovery community and justice impacted, he used his skills in a Work Experience to develop a software application that would help court program participants in the specialty court program.

Specialty court clients are required to complete public service work and pay their fines before they can graduate from the program. The application that Kenny developed allowed the clients to track both their public service work hours remaining and calculate new weekly goals to hit their target date for completion based on the hours above or below the week's goal. The application would adjust weekly goals if their target date were to change for graduation or for starting full time employment. The application could also be used to budget weekly the payment of fines to the court. Kenny is now currently employed with a recovery program in McHenry County working with clients in recovery.

Program Participant Successes

Patti G. (60152)

When Patti came into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program at McHenry County Workforce Network, she was working as a Facility Manager. Her desire was to grow within the company by taking on more responsibility and move into a management position within Human Resources; however, she lacked the formal training and credentials needed for that position.

Patti was still working full-time, but with the help of the WIOA Program, she was able to peruse training. She successfully completed training at Harper College, earning her Human Resource Management Certificate. Patti is currently utilizing her new skills and transitioning into her new Human Resources role within her current company.

Young Adult Success Stories

Ronaldo G. (60102)

Ronaldo entered the Youth Program with a desire to expand his career options. He was already employed at a transportation company as a tank washer and forklift driver but wanted to earn his Commercial Driver's License in order to provide himself with more opportunities. After exploring occupational training programs with his Career Planner, Ronaldo committed to a CDL training course that allowed him to attend classes in the mornings and on weekends, and still work his current job on the second shift. Ronaldo's work ethic has been evident as he successfully balances his work and training program. He recently attained his Commercial Learners Permit and is continuing to practice his driving skills in preparation for his CDL testing. Ronaldo is looking forward to the career opportunities that will be open to him when he successfully earns his Commercial Driver's License.

Where Are They Now

Marissa R. (60081) Workforce Network Young Adult participant in 2022.

Marissa participated in the Workforce Network Young Adult program during the summer of 2022 following her junior year of college at North Central College, where she majored in studio art. As a Workforce intern at the non-profit, Warp Corps, Marissa learned much about the running of a non-profit while utilizing her Art background. She ran free children's art workshops on weekends, also organizing WARP Corps' gallery space and coordinating art shows for local artists each month. She worked as a retail cashier in the shop and took shirt orders. She also assisted with outreach to the local homeless population and those struggling with substance abuse disorders.

Following her summer internship through Workforce Network, Marissa returned to complete her senior year and developed her leadership skills by serving as a Peer Educator in the college's Office of Multicultural Affairs. Marissa found her work experience serving the homeless community helped her as a Peer Educator to better assist those who were homeless in her school community. In May of 2023, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree Cum Laude from North Central College with a major in Studio Art and a minor in Journalism.

Looking for work within local government following graduation, Marissa applied and was hired for a full-time position as a Health Educator for McHenry County Health Department, working in the Nursing Division under the Tobacco Free Communities Grant. Marissa does educational presentations at local schools on the benefits of stopping smoking and vaping. She presents to business owners who want to establish a smoke-free and

vape-free work environment. She provides cessation information to individuals who want to stop smoking. She also assists with Wellness Screenings for the residents of McHenry County and visitors to the county. She provides education on A1C, diabetes prevention and management.

Asked what her advice would be to young adults needing help after high school, she remarked “If you need assistance with employment, job training and career guidance, then consider the McHenry County Workforce Network Young Adult program. The employees who worked with me were very helpful, always checked in with me and were very good guides.”

The staff of McHenry County Workforce Network congratulate Marissa on her success in school, earning her bachelor’s degree, and welcome her to the County in her role as a Health Educator with the McHenry County Health Department.

Employer’s Voice

Testimonial -Sustainable Staffing

Our relationship with the McHenry County Workforce Network has proven to be a valuable resource for identifying promising talent that delivers the results we seek in each new hire. Applicants receive education and training that helps prepare them for the challenges presented by the competitive job market of today. The McHenry County Workforce Network and Sustainable Staffing provide job seekers with a range of support services that are vital to their success in finding rewarding employment. You will get the best advice from them when you host a job fair. This will depend on the type of candidate that you want to recruit, the type of industry that you are in, and the current hiring needs of your organization. Regardless of whether you are looking for employment or employees, we strongly recommend that you include the McHenry County Workforce Network in your strategy planning process.

Mary McBride, Founder *March 12, 2024*

Job Search Workshops

One of the great services that McHenry County Workforce Center offers to job seekers is a free online series called the **Internet Job Seres Series** and a **Netwok to Success Job Club** focused on the job search basics. Bruce Bennett facilitates these workshops and does a fantastic job providing advice on resumes, interviews, constructing a great LinkedIn profile, and other career focused topics. Through Bruce’s efforts, his workshops have aided seven job seekers obtain employment in the first quarter of this year. Bruce conducts four workshops under the Internet Job Search Series and holds the Netwok to Success Job Club every month. These workshops make up one piece of the services that the McHenry County Workforce Center has to offer. It is a testament to the value of the services offered through the Center with the hiring outcomes produced. If you would like to check out more of what career service we offer, please visit our website at <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/workforce-network>

You can see more stories at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com or stop in and meet the staff:

McHenry County Workforce Network, 500 Russel Ct., Woodstock, IL 60098

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To view the US Department of Labor Disclaimer, visit our website at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com