

# Iowa Workforce Monthly

## Highlights:

- Over 150 participants attended a valuable career development seminar on January 26<sup>th</sup> titled "Rise Above the Crowd - Getting Hired in Today's Economy." .....pg. 2
- Joanne McKeog sent a letter in December thanking the New Iowan Center for the services they provide.....pg. 2
- Scott Shaw, an ex-offender, went to the Newton Workforce Center and tested for the Career Readiness Certificate.....pg. 2
- Iowa's Unemployment Insurance Tax program is getting a new online filing system, called My Iowa UI.....pg. 3
- The Davenport Veteran's Outreach Program Representative presented a \$500 donation check to help the Humility of Mary Shelter in helping veterans.....pg. 3

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## Unemployment Services

Iowa Workforce Development offers assistance for workers who have been laid-off. From unemployment benefits to job search workshops, Iowa Workforce offices are here to help during this time of uncertainty.

Employees who are laid-off may be entitled to unemployment benefits after any severance package runs out.

In addition to unemployment, regional workforce offices offer a wide-range of workshops on a rotating basis. These workshops help to meet the immediate needs of Iowans in transition. The topics include dealing with job loss, financial management,

applying for financial aid, résumé development, job search methods and tips on keeping a job in today's environment.

Many IWD offices have resource centers that provide information on how to create different types of résumés and cover letters. Word processing software and IWD staff are also available to assist you with the preparation of a résumé or cover letter. Services are designated for beginners and for more advanced users. Job seeking and skill videos and career information are available to help prepare the job seeker for the process of finding and landing that new job.

## Statewide Unemployment Data

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up slightly to 6.7 percent in November from a revised October rate of 6.6 percent. The state's jobless rate was 4.3 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 10.0 percent in November from 10.2 percent in October, as employers cut the smallest number of jobs since the recession began.

"Iowa's labor market continued to show signs of stabilizing with the November numbers," said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development.

"However, it will take some time before Iowa can achieve a healthy and sustainable recovery."

The statewide estimate of unemployed workers rose to 113,100 in November from 112,000 in October. The level of unemployed was reported at 72,800 for the same month one year ago.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,570,200 in November from 1,573,400 in October. The year ago figure of 1,604,900 was 34,700 higher than the current estimate.

# One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

Welcome to the New Year and a new edition of Iowa Workforce Monthly. It has been a busy month, especially since the legislative session began. We hope to work on some important issues with the Iowa Legislature this session.

We have a lot of great information included this month, beginning with a summary of all the

Unemployment Insurance Services available to everyone receiving Unemployment Insurance. We hope that you will take advantage of all of these free services that are available to you.

We also were happy to participate in a free seminar that IWD along with DMACC and KCCI. It was a great way for job seekers to improve their skills. Thank you to everyone who attended this

great event. We hope you gained valuable information and tips to help you in your job search.

Also included in this edition is information regarding changes in the way employers file Unemployment Insurance taxes. Please take a minute to read about this and follow up if you have any questions.

## Success Story: New Iowan Center

Joanne McKeog sent a letter in December thanking the New Iowan Center for the services they provide.

Here is a little bit of her letter:

“When I entered the Workforce Center looking for a job, I saw the New Iowan Center sign.

Curious, I asked what they were about and they told me they had free classes for Spanish-speakers to learn English.

I asked if they taught English speakers Spanish and the answer was yes. I

have been coming to the New Iowan Center ever since, for over a year

and a half. The help of Hugo and Patty has been invaluable, and

they never tire of answering questions. I do not know what

I’d do without them and the New Iowan Center. It gives

me a goal to work toward, and Patty and Hugo have

been nothing but encouraging.”

## Free Career Development Seminar Offered

Over 150 participants attended a valuable career development seminar on January 26<sup>th</sup> titled “Rise Above the Crowd - Getting Hired in Today’s Economy.” Sponsored by IWD, KCCI and DMACC, this half-day seminar featured keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

Keynote speakers included career-building consultants Cassandra Halls and author Roxanne Rogers. Both spoke about the importance of reinventing yourself after losing a job and the importance of building your personal brand.

During the breakout sessions, participants were able to gain tips on how to break through clutter and get hired along with resume writing best practices. Sessions also focused on financial concerns and strategies in tough economic times.



## Ex-Offender Success Story

Scott, an ex-offender, went to the Newton Workforce Center and tested for the Career Readiness

Certificate. He tested at the highest certificate level –

which is Gold. After only two weeks, he found a job

working in an IT Department upgrading systems and

installing frameware.

Shaw says “I love my job so far and it doesn’t feel

like work.”

# My Iowa UI: An Updated Unemployment Tax Filing System

Iowa's Unemployment Insurance Tax program is getting a new online filing system, called My Iowa UI. The development of My Iowa UI was based in part on feedback we have received from staff, employers and other 3<sup>rd</sup> party filers. This new system will improve on the functionality of the Unemployment Insurance Tax System and replace a system that is approaching 40 years of age.

My Iowa UI gives employers, accountants

and other 3<sup>rd</sup> party filers the power to manage their tax account securely and conveniently. Some of the functions include:

- Submission of Quarterly Reports
- Making and Scheduling Payments
- Viewing and Updating Account Information
- Viewing Historic Information
- Adding Multiple Users

My Iowa UI will be available to all employers for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010 filing in April. You may register by going to [www.myiowaui.org](http://www.myiowaui.org).

Important registration instructions and information regarding unemployment insurance tax changes will be mailed to all Iowa employers in March 2010.

For questions regarding the online tax system, contact the My Iowa UI Customer Service Team at (888) 848-7442 or [iwduitax@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:iwduitax@iwd.iowa.gov).

For general unemployment tax questions you may call (515) 281-5339 or (800) 972-2024.

## Davenport Veteran's Program makes donation to homeless Shelter

The Davenport Veteran's Outreach Program Representative presented a \$500 donation check to help the Humility of Mary Shelter assist veterans.

They also donated \$250 each to the Victory Center in Clinton and the Muscatine Center for Social Action to aid in helping homeless veterans.

These donations were possible from the "Veteran Incentive Award" received in June at the Annual Veterans Conference in Des Moines.



Pictured from left: Craig Norris (Veterans Representative), Cathy Jordan (Service Coordinator) and Jason Kerr with Humility of Mary Shelter.



# Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. Here are a few noteworthy comments we've received:

- Gene Veltkamp sent a thank you note to **Katie Clark, Spencer**, for her

time leading a seminar at the Orange City Workforce Center. He says, "it was evident that you knew your material and you carried yourself with poise and grace." He continues to say the Clark made her corner of the world just a little brighter by her attendance. Good job Katie!

- Ronald Ray is a member

that has come in several times weekly for assistance since his position was terminated in October. He went through Pre-Employment Training, got assistance writing several résumés and had a mock interview to prepare for a real interview he had with a company. Ray said they called him the day after his interview

to offer him the position. He called the **Creston Workforce Center** to thank the IowaWORKS team for the excellent services he received.

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, send it to:  
kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov  
or 515-281-5407.

## Iowa Workforce Monthly

1000 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
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For Deaf or Hard of Hearing, call Relay 711

*Iowa Workforce Monthly* is intended to help keep Iowa employers, job seekers and IWD employees informed about critical employment issues affecting Iowa. For more information, contact Kathryn Hommer via e-mail at [kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov) or 515-281-5407.

**Chet Culver**  
Governor

**Elisabeth Buck**  
Director

**Kerry Koonce**  
Communications Director

**Mark French**  
Web Master

**Kathryn Hommer**  
Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program  
Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

## Employee News

### Promotions/Transfers

Keith Hawkins	Connie Kuebler
Kristi Judkins	Violet LeFlore
Douglas Marshall	Rita Stevens
Krystal Ruby	Kimberly Wilhelm
Leslie Schmalzried	Katherine Bearce
Elaine Weidlein	Michael Rohlf
Carol Duggan	

### New Hires

Satya Adusumalli  
Jodie Anderson  
Kay Kinkel  
Andrea Pinter  
Any Reed  
Eric Wiechmann  
Jennifer Wynn

### Anniversaries

<u>5 Years</u>	<u>25 Years</u>
Chad Lutter	Kimberly Ardueser
Eddie Sauls	William Carroll
Sandra Taylor	Kristin Macy
<u>10 Years</u>	<u>30 Years</u>
Carmela Shaw	Michele Sells
James Timberland	
<u>20 Years</u>	
Harvey Andrews	

### Retirements

Duane Akeright  
Sharon Anderson  
Norman Bissel  
John Ecker  
Virginia Still  
Doris Wozniak

