

November 2010 Issue 19

# Iowa Workforce Monthly



## Ottumwa DVOP Specialist Wins National Disabled Veteran Award



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**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist Linda Rouse, Ottumwa IowaWORKS, recently received the Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Disabled Veterans.

"I believe the positive impact Linda has had on the Veteran's community in southeast Iowa is immeasurable," said Daniel Hoy, Director of Veterans Affairs for Wapello County.

As DVOP Specialist, Rouse has conducted extensive training to staff throughout the region to ensure they understand and provide not only Priority of Service but the highest possible level of service to veterans.

Rouse provides veteran services to over ten counties and three IowaWORKS offices throughout the IowaWORKS Southern Iowa region.

The National Mark Sanders Award recognizes local office/one-stop centers that have demonstrated, during the previous calendar year, exceptional services to disabled veterans seeking employment assistance. This award was named in honor of Mark Sanders for his distinguished career with the California Employment Development Department and in NASWA leadership positions.

## Statewide Unemployment Data

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was reported at 6.7 percent for October, while the September rate was also revised downward to 6.7 percent. The state's jobless rate stood at 6.5 percent one year ago.

"After two quarters of weak job growth, Iowa's companies hired workers at a particularly strong pace in October," said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "The October payroll

numbers confirm that the statewide economy regained momentum early in the fourth quarter."

The statewide estimate of unemployed persons edged down to 112,400 in October from 112,800 in September. The level stood at 108,300 last October. The total number of working Iowans rose slightly to 1,561,700 in October from 1,561,600 in September, but was 6,100 less than the year ago total of 1,567,800.

# One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

It's hard to believe winter is upon us and Thanksgiving is already over. I hope you all had a chance to reflect and remember to be thankful during the holiday season.

One of the many things we have to be thankful for in Iowa is the veterans who have sacrificed so much for us. It is so fitting that we get to take a moment in November to thank our veterans for their service. We have packed this issue with a summary of what IWD has done to remember our

veterans. You can read a list of events that took place all over the state and see some photos. Thank you to all our Iowa Veterans!

The New Iowan Center in Sioux City recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate the event, the Sioux City office hosted a Naturalization Ceremony and an Open House. We are pleased to offer these tremendous services for all those who are in need.

Burlington recently opened

a new ICAP service location. ICAP is a program that offers job seekers services at different community locations and hours are varied to allow service in the evening or on weekends.

For more information on the ICAP program, visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/icap/](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/icap/).

## New ICAP Workforce Services Center Held Open House

Iowa Workforce Development has partnered with the Strengthen Rural Iowa, a federal partnership, to locate an Iowa Career Access Point (ICAP) in Burlington. The access point creates an additional entrance point into the workforce system for individuals at familiar community locations.

"Workforce services are needed now more than ever," stated Elisabeth Buck, Iowa Workforce Development Director. "Utilizing these unique partnerships allows us to bring our services to more Iowans."

By utilizing current community service providers and volunteers trained within the ICAP system, Iowa is able to provide cohesive workforce services to a broader audience within local communities not currently served with a satellite workforce office. Community members will receive assistance with job search techniques, résumé development, filing unemployment claims and other workforce related services.

The new ICAP location hosted an open house on Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to showcase the new location and update the community on the services available.

The Burlington ICAP is located at the Zion United Church of Christ, at 412 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, serving individuals from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday; 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Tuesday; and by appointment.

## New Iowan Center 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

IowaWORKS Greater Siouxland hosted an open house to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the New Iowan Center and the array of services provided to Iowans.

The New Iowan Center Program in Sioux City started in November of 2000. To celebrate this occasion, the Center hosted a Naturalization Ceremony followed by an open house on Friday, November 5. Refreshments were served following the hour long ceremony.

New Iowan Centers were established to offer workforce

development services to persons who have recently moved to Iowa and are seeking employment. The centers are designed to support workers, businesses, and communities with information, community service referrals, job placement, translations, language training, and resettlement assistance, as well as technical and legal

assistance concerning forms and documentation. Through public-private partnerships, the New Iowan Centers provide one-stop workforce services for new Iowans.





# Cedar Rapids IowaWORKS Hosts Career Fair

The Cedar Rapids office hosted a fall Job Fair on Thursday Oct. 21 at their new location in Lindale Mall, with an astounding turnout of 750 job seekers.

This was their first job fair at the new location with over 60 major employers present including Nordstrom, CRST, Go Daddy, UPS, AEGON, ESP International, Mediacom, US Cellular and Alliant.

This was a particularly impressive undertaking for the newly integrated IowaWORKS team, as earlier that day they had hosted their Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and State Workforce Investment Board meeting, along with giving center

tours to the public throughout the day.

The job fair began at 4 pm during regular business hours with a rush of people waiting in line since 3 pm. While continuing to assist customers with UI needs, staff transformed the Membership area along with 3 classrooms, 1 large conference room and a small area outside the office in Lindale Mall to accommodate employer tables.

Collaborating with the mall allowed for additional advertising opportunities and a chance to build relationships with other businesses located inside and around the mall.



Men's Warehouse presented "Dress for Success" workshops and interested job seekers took advantage of their Annual Suit Drive receiving donated suits and dress clothes to assist them with their job searching needs. Staff also hosted an array of workshops before the Job Fair to better prepare job seekers with their résumés and interviewing techniques.

Feedback received from employer evaluations was very positive; overall, employers were impressed with the professional attire and qualifications of the job seekers who attended. The Cedar Rapids office is planning a Youth Job Fair scheduled for late February, with the possibility of an industry specific job fair in the spring.

## Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation Deadline Arrives

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program, consisting of up to 47 additional weeks of benefits, has not been extended by Congress. Individuals currently on one of the three tiers of EUC benefits will be allowed to finish the tier, however additional benefits will not be available.

"While the Iowa economy is showing signs of improvement, there are thousands of individuals still in need of EUC benefits," stated Director Elisabeth Buck.

"Approximately 2,000 Iowans

will lose out on additional benefits each week over the next several months because Congress did not extend the program."

Individuals, who exhausted their regular Iowa benefits on or before the week ending November 20, were eligible for the Tier 1 of EUC. Additionally, a claimant who exhausted Tier 1 or Tier 2 on or prior to the week ending November 27th were eligible for an additional Tier of benefits. Those currently on Tier 3 will be allowed to exhaust those benefits.

All eligible EUC benefits must be used by the week ending April 30, 2011.

"I strongly encourage anyone in need of employment assistance to visit one of our 55 IowaWORKS offices throughout the state and take advantage of available programs," said Buck.

For more information on unemployment benefits and employment services, contact your local IowaWORKS office. Contact information is available at [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org).





# Regional Update

We're introducing a new feature in Iowa Workforce Monthly. Each month we will highlight our IowaWORKS offices statewide by including photos from local events or activities.

Shoes for Veterans - Sioux City



Medal of Honor Recipient Reception



Veteran's Lunch - Mason City



Central Iowa Career Fair - Des Moines

Central Iowa Career Fair - Des Moines



Shoes for Veterans - Sioux City

Central Iowa Career Fair - Des Moines



Shoes for Veterans - Sioux City



# Regional Veteran's Day Events & Photos

Regional IowaWORKS offices participated in a variety of events throughout the state. Below is a summary of the local events:

## North Iowa (Mason City)

The Annual Veteran's Event on held Nov. 10 provided over 40 veteran's and spouses with a delicious meal and the opportunity to win several door prizes including gas cards and retail gift cards.

## Iowa Valley (Marshalltown)

Part-time Veteran Representative, Jeff Heiden, helped raise the flag at 5 area nursing homes. Heiden is also in charge of the Marshalltown Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Color Guard. They had flags and rifles at each location.

## Eastern Iowa (Davenport)

IowaWORKS Eastern Iowa Veteran and Management team presented a plaque and award to a local manufacturer, SSAB, for their support of the Homeless Veteran Stand Down project. SSAB has been the single largest financial contributor the last four years; without their support, the 139 veterans served would still be in need.

## Central Iowa (Des Moines)

The annual Career Fair was held at the Polk County River Place. Over 30 employers were in attendance looking for diverse, motivated and skilled employees. Workshops, Résumé reviews and Interviewing tips were also provided during the event.

## Greater Siouxland (Sioux City)

At least 200 veterans participated in the annual Shoes for Veterans event. In addition to shoes, the veterans were able to receive a wide-variety of items. They were also given a good nutritious hot meal.

## Southern Hills (Creston)

IowaWORKS Southern Hills co-sponsored a Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast. IowaWORKS staff volunteered their time to serve breakfast to veterans and their families. Other sponsors included the Creston Chamber of Commerce and the Creston WalMart.

The Red Oak IowaWORKS office hosted the monthly chamber meeting. The meeting featured speakers Ret. Lt. Colonel Marlin Tillman and Bruce Micheel, with the Veteran's Museum in Shenendoah.



# Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

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

– Dean Phillips sent in a note thanking **Sandy Magsamen, Oelwein,**

**and the Oelwein IowaWORKS office** for dedicated and thoughtful service. "I have been very grateful for the kindness and encouragement shown to me," Phillips stated. Good job Sandy and the staff at the Oelwein office.

– Karen Leisen wrote to thank **Randy Adcock, Des Moines, and the Unemployment Insurance Tax Bureau.** Leisen was having a hard time filing the third quarter report for her company. She called for help

and Adcock assisted her. Leisen states "Never have I had someone so patient and thorough in instructing me. I just had to let you know as it was such a relief to me to have such an understanding individual help me." Way to go Randy!

– Lori Young from the Targeted Small Business Program with the Iowa Department of Economic Development sent a note about the open house at the Mitchellville Correctional Facility. **Brenda Tart, Mitchellville,** organized an open house event to help

inmates find a job after they are released. Young said "I found the event at Mitchellville an eye-opening experience. The programming and structure of your facility is impressive. I had lots of visitors to my table during the career fair, so much so that I ran out of materials. I hope I have the opportunity to participate again in the future."

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

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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.

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**Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.**

## Employee News

### New Hires

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Charles Avery  | Brian Kelly             |
| Teresa Book    | Brenda Noe              |
| Timothy Booker | Catherine Nelson-Schoon |
| Nelson Castro  | Philip Peacock          |
| Max Cates      | Jennifer Ruplinger      |
| Lori Cook      | Mary Ryan               |
| Justin Demsky  | Suzanne Schleifman      |
| Paula Fenner   | Steven Schwickerath     |
| Aaron Gillett  | April Stockbauer        |
| Jeri Harmon    | Dean Welfringer         |
| James Harris   | Laura Wood              |
| Hannah Jensen  |                         |

### Anniversaries

#### 5 Years

Mark Reilly  
Rosa Garduno  
Martin Moen  
Richard Carter  
Carol Dugan

#### 10 Years

Barbara Murray  
Marla Loecke  
Debra Ostrem

#### 20 Years

Daniel Halferty  
Harvey Andrews  
Marlon Mormann  
Deborah Babb

#### 25 Years

Ted Ondracek  
Janet Thomas  
Pamela Ostrem

#### 30 Years

Diana DeHeer

### Promotions/ Transfers

Randolph Adcock  
Joni Benson  
Amanda Blanchard  
Shirley Clayton  
Patricia Downing  
Roxanna Devine  
Jeffrey Ellis  
Christal Finck  
Shari Goertz  
Carmen Gomez  
Jill Jacobson  
Kathy Jergenson  
Mary Piagentini  
Rebecca Ramirez  
Christy Roush  
Gladys Runner  
Rita Stevens  
Sherri Vaughn  
Ryan West