

SUCCESS

Newsletter for Lake County Workforce Development

vol. 8 ed. 1

What's Inside?

Trade Adjustment 1

Work Experience 2

Disability 3

Job Center 4

Lake County Workforce Development is a partner in the Job Center of Lake County. Workforce Development receives grants from the US Department of Labor including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) grants to fund programs designed to cultivate and connect employers and the workforce.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal program that provides a path for employment growth and opportunity through aid to workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The TAA program seeks to provide these trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, resources, and support they need to become reemployed. Additional aid through the **Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)** may be available to these individuals after their unemployment insurance compensation is exhausted.

Colin is one example of a worker eligible under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. Colin was laid off in 2016 and approached the layoff as an opportunity to transition from a job that he dreaded to something that he loved. Colin learned that he qualified for additional assistance including training under TAA and extended unemployment benefits under TRA and he acted on this opportunity.

Colin had flown an airplane recreationally and began seriously researching careers as a Commercial Pilot. He learned the occupation had an expected 19% growth rate in Illinois and an average salary of \$74,000. After researching several schools, he selected **Skill Aviation** at Waukegan Airport.

Colin attended the 52-week professional pilot training course. While taking classes, he joined professional pilot organizations, found flying-specific job search boards, and networked through the school and mentoring groups. He applied for several positions that he found on pilot job forums. Colin was hired as a **First Officer** with **Meisinger Aviation** in April 2018. Every other week, he finds himself in a different part of North America picking up an airplane that his crew will fly that week. Colin describes his new job as a "dream come true".



Work Experience is built on a work, earn, and learn training model and has demonstrated success in connecting customers to careers. WIOA funds are used to subsidize work experience as individuals apply training in a work environment to acquire or hone workplace competencies.

Angenetta was laid off from a 15-year position as a Distribution Center Project Manager within the supply chain industry in 2014. While working in contract positions for almost three years, she interviewed for but never secured a permanent project management position. Although Angenetta has a Master's degree, employers were screening out her resume because she was not certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP).



Angenetta qualified for WIOA funding and began training at **Management and Information Technology Solutions** in December 2017. In January 2018, she also started a work experience with the **Lake County Purchasing Department**. The position allowed her to learn the process for a contract renewal system and to build hours toward her PMP certification.

A former college classmate who works at Barilla America, Inc. encouraged Angenetta to apply at the company. The hiring manager was intrigued by the workplace competencies that she had picked up through her training and work experience. After three interviews, Angenetta was hired. Angenetta began working as the **Purchasing Professional Supplier Manager at Barilla Americas** in May 2018. She manages diversity programs and sustainability initiatives.



Domonique had been a participant in the Workforce Development youth program in 2010 and knew where to go when she found herself looking for work in 2017. She had worked temporary assembly and seasonal customer service positions, but she wanted a job that would give her the financial stability to support her child.

Domonique was screened by Workforce Development and qualified for a paid work experience at the Job Center of Lake County. She worked the reception desk, answering a multi-line telephone and greeting customers. Her mentors worked with her to build confidence, reinforce essential skills and polish her professional image. Identifying that her wardrobe needed an upgrade, Workforce staff connected her with the **Fuller Center for Housing, Hero Project Lake County**. "Clothing isn't our primary mission," explained Yvette Ewing at the Fuller Center, "but when we put out Domonique's story to our network, the clothes came."

Domonique attended several hiring events at the Job Center of Lake County and interviewed with multiple employers. Her new professional appearance and demeanor impressed employers. She was hired as a **Teller with Armed Forces Bank** in November 2017. Domonique is happy to have her first permanent position with benefits.

Workforce Development received a grant to serve as a pilot site in Illinois for the Disability Employment Initiative in 2013 at the Job Center of Lake County. Since the program's inception, Workforce Development has recorded serving more than 800 people who have self-identified as having disabilities. The program connected with community agencies to better serve individuals with disabilities. A representative from the Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation, is stationed at the Job Center weekly along with staff members from Goodwill Ability One, Prairie State Legal Services and the Independence Center.

Denise can attest to the value of how the Job Center partners and programs work collaboratively with individuals to help get them their next job. A car accident in 2010 changed the course of Denise's life. Over a three-year period, she underwent 14 surgeries and eventually lost one arm. Prior to the accident, Denise had worked teaching college-level computer classes and in office administration but was finding it challenging to find similar work. She no longer could type with speed and her computer knowledge was out-of-date. She worked two short-term jobs, found herself financially struggling and eventually lost her home.

Denise moved to a Chicago homeless shelter and even slept in her car for a few weeks. Then her car's engine blew up.

"2015 was a rough year. I had three strikes against me: jobless, homeless, and carless." While in Chicago, she

worked as a Customer Care Associate for the Chicago Lighthouse, a program that specializes in serving individuals with disabilities. She then moved in with a friend back in Lake County and worked as a tax preparer for a few months until she found herself unemployed again in April 2016.

It was at this time Denise came to the Job Center of Lake County for assistance. She attended multiple workshops and updated her resume. Workforce staff members who specialize in services for persons with disabilities advised her regarding career and ticket to work options. With no car, she took work as a cashier within walking distance of her home. After a church donated a car to her, Denise started a part-time position as an **Administrative Assistant at Lamb's Farm**. She was thrilled to get back into a professional position and wanted to continue to refresh her computer skills.

Denise qualified for WIOA grant assistance training and began classes in Microsoft Office at **Computer Training Source** in August 2016. She graduated in August 2017 after earning her **Microsoft Office Specialist Master** certificate. She began applying aggressively for jobs and by early 2018, she received three job offers. She has accepted contractual positions as a **Computer Instructor at the College of Lake County, Computer Concepts USA and Computer Training Source**. Denise credits the Job Center of Lake County with helping her to transition during one of the most difficult times of her life.



LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1 N. Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
847.377.3450

www.lakecountyjobcenter.com



jobcenter@lakecountyil.gov

Like us on Facebook.
*Lake County Workforce
Development*



Follow us on Twitter.
@LakeCountyJobs



TRAINING • CONNECTING • DEVELOPING ILLINOIS' WORKFORCE

A proud partner of the [americanjobcenter](#) network

An equal opportunity program/employer.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon
request to persons with disabilities.

The Job Center of Lake County features a resource room with computers where individuals can conduct their job search. These computers have typically been used by job seekers who want to create a resume or fill out an online application. Newly-hired individuals also use the computers to complete onboarding documents or online training.

Scott was laid off from a position as a packer in 2016. He utilized the Job Center and its resources to apply for jobs, research careers, and learn more about skills and certificates that employers are looking for a candidate to possess. Scott qualified for WIOA training funds and decided to pursue his CDL truck driving license at Kotra Truck Driving School. Scott had previous experience driving trucks in the military but needed civilian licensure.

After obtaining his Certified Truck Driving License, Scott worked a long-haul trucking job for a year. However, after he became the caregiver for his father, he switched to a transportation company that allowed him to be home every other day. He worked two years in the new job until, during a company buyout, he was reassigned to work long-haul jobs. This new job schedule did not work for him; and Scott decided to start looking for a new job.

Scott stopped at the Job Center of Lake County in April 2018 after he landed a new job as a **Regional Truck Driver** for **Roadrunner Freight**. Since his home computer was broken, he needed to use the Job Center computers to complete required onboarding forms. "I want you to know your program really works," Scott told the Job Center staff enthusiastically.

