

SUCCESS

An internship leads to a career

Lake County Workforce Development is a partner of 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.

Lake County Workforce Development is a leader in the workforce development system dedicated to working with young people ages 18 to 24 as they enter the workforce. Young adults receive career coaching, training in workplace essential skills, and guidance and financial support with occupational training and education, along with internship opportunities.

Jose is a veteran who served in the U.S. Army and connected with the Job Center to help with his next career move. He worked two short-term positions but wanted to identify a long-term career. Initially interested in electrical and renewable energy, he pursued grants and scholarships that would help him reach his goal.



Seeking information about training and education programs, Jose connected with Workforce Development professionals. Jose qualified for tuition assistance and worked with a Career Specialist who helped him identify appropriate training programs. Jose selected an electrical and heating/air conditioning program at the Chicago Professional Center. His training was delayed, though, while he completed a month of Army Reserve training.

goals. Jose was selected as the right candidate to fit the team. He explained that the job was hard work and that he sought out mentors at his new place of employment.

When Jose returned and was waiting for a new class to begin, Workforce Development connected him to an internship opportunity at the Lake County Public Works Department that would align with his training and career

Jose completed his internship then applied for and was hired full-time as a **Utility Worker** for Lake County Public Works in January 2022. He also successfully completed his training at Chicago Professional Center and earned two certificates in National Electric Code Program and Residential & Commercial HVAC Technician/ Electrician. Jose loves his new position and the team he works with and is pleased with the benefits provided by his employer.

Lake County Workforce Development

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Lake County Workforce Development qualifies individual jobseekers for tuition assistance when pursuing short-term occupational training and education that leads to a high-demand/high-wage job. Funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) grant. The goal is to for unemployed and underemployed individuals to gain necessary skills and industry credentials to compete in the current market.

Training opens the door for a new career

Chevannese stayed employed during 2020-2021 by taking multiple jobs as they were available including working at a local laboratory making COVID test kits. It was here that a co-worker shared that she was pursuing medical training thanks to the Job Center of Lake County. Chevannese received career coaching and guidance as she learned about different healthcare jobs requiring certifications and available training programs. She selected a medical assistant program at State Career College with the goal of becoming a Certified Medical Assistant and started her coursework in March 2021.



Chevannese was in the top of her class at State Career College. She was hired as a **Medical/Patient Support Assistant** at Northshore University Health System in May 2022. Chevannese is grateful that Workforce Development made it financially possible for her to achieve her career dream and that her Career Specialist supported her throughout the journey. She advises other job seekers to pursue career coaching through the Job Center and Workforce Development training. *"You never know what will come out of the program until you enroll."*

The Job Center of Lake County helps job seekers learn the latest job search techniques and best ways to connect with businesses and job opportunities in the community. The Job Center features workforce development professionals who provide career coaching, group workshops, and one-on-one assistance to help with creating or editing resumes, finding jobs, researching careers, and practicing interviews.

Career guidance leads to a job opportunity

Michelle knew the Job Center of Lake County could provide her the career coaching and employer connections to find her next job, and she was right. Michelle graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Sociology and completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps volunteer. She returned to her home in Lake County in the summer of 2021 and began searching for new opportunities. After looking for employment without luck, she connected with the Job Center of Lake County.



Michelle received career coaching from workforce development professionals and discussed a myriad of employment and career options available with different business and agencies throughout Lake County. Her main concern was that she no longer had local contacts after living out-of-state for four years, and she wanted to learn effective networking techniques and ways to use transferable skills to apply to different jobs. A Career Specialist reviewed a menu of job opportunities with her and developed a target list of employers. Michelle explained, *"My Career Specialist provided insights into various organizations including the United Way of Lake County."* When a full-time position became available at United Way, Michelle applied, interviewed and was hired as a **Donor Relations Account Manager** in October 2021. In her new position, Michelle works with corporations to support and connect them with volunteering efforts and giving campaigns. Michelle's advice to other young professionals is to overcome their fear of being inexperienced. *"I had never worked for a non-profit organization. This position has allowed me to grow so much professionally. I've been able to perfect skills that I could not have if I had been too scared to take on this opportunity".*

The Job Center of Lake County is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities All voice telephone numbers may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment by calling TTY (800) 526-0844 or 711. Funds for this project were provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Employment and Training Administration. See our website for details. <https://bit.ly/3EUjr6p>