

SUCCESS

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

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Lake County Workforce Development qualifies individual jobseekers for tuition assistance to pursue short-term occupational training and education leading to updated skills and industry credentials. Funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) grant. The goal is for unemployed and underemployed individuals to become competitive for high-demand/high-wage jobs.

Training in Skilled Manufacturing



Kyle worked in a series of jobs including retail and manufacturing right out of high school and was trying to figure out a career. Unsure of all the opportunities in Lake County, Kyle connected with the Job Center and received career coaching, information on careers and businesses who are hiring. He also learned about industry credentials and long-term earning potential in different jobs. Kyle qualified for a training grant and was approved for a 16-week training course in computerized numerical control (CNC) technology with quality control at **Symbol Training Institute**. Kyle was happy to report he was hired as a **CNC Machinist** at **Nypro**, a Jabil company, even before his coursework was complete.

Kyle performs setups on various CNC machines that form the parts used to create plastic injection molds. As such, he is involved in a critical early step in the mass production of plastic parts. Kyle said that he appreciates the team environment at his company and likes the vast amount of experience that he can gain there. He plans to continue learning and to branch out into other areas of the manufacturing industry. He has advice for other young people who are starting their careers. *"As long as you put in the time and effort, the results will follow—even if they're not immediately apparent, the results will come."*

Manufacturing & Lake County's Economy

- Supports more than 30% of the county's economy
- Includes more than 98K jobs
- More than \$12 billion in salaries & benefits annually

From August 11, 2022 press release by Lake County Partners

The Business Service team offers several solutions to employers who need to find and retain talent. A highly-effective, cost-saving solution is a subsidized **Work Experience**, a planned and structured employer-driven learning experience that takes place at the worksite. Workforce Development works with employers to place qualified individuals into 6 month internships and can fund up to 100% of the training wages. **Training Grants** are also available to up-skill current employees; local businesses develop and implement training programs with their trainer of choice and current employees gain new or updated skills and credentials. The stories below illustrate how the Business Service Team actively led out these strategies with two local employers.

Support for Manufacturer

Domeny Tool and Stamping Company is a family-owned business that supplies precision drawn metal stampings to business clients worldwide. When John Castillo joined Domeny in January 2022 as the Director of Operations, he knew he would be challenged to find talent, particularly for the hard-to-fill position of Design Engineer. Drawing on his previous experience developing internal talent, he wanted to create a structured learning path to transition entry-level workers into more skilled positions. *“To maintain operational efficiency, profitability, and customer satisfaction, our new generation of toolmakers must upskill their engineering abilities to prepare our organization for the industry’s talent gap crisis of available die designers.”* Knowing that he faced an uphill battle as skilled workers increasingly retire, John reached out to the Business Service Team at the Job Center of Lake County.



The Business Service Team set up two work experiences at Domeny Tools, allowing the individuals to learn essential job skills while ensuring they fit the long-term health of the company. A trainee was placed as a **Press Set Up Technician** who will be trained as a future supervisor. A trainee was also placed as a **Programming and Design Engineer** with long-term plans to take over a business portfolio for Domeny. John knows the value of investing in the development and training of the workforce and is working with the College of Lake County and Workforce Development to set up training plans for additional employees with the company.

John Castillo was appointed to the Lake County Workforce Board in October and will provide important insight regarding the manufacturing field in Lake County. He sees this as an opportunity to give back to an organization that supports a skilled workforce.

Support for Non Profit

The **Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization/ NIRCO** is a nonprofit organization that delivers recovery best practices relevant to mental health and substance use disorders. Workforce Development has partnered with NIRCO for years to support this mission. In 2022, Dr. Mary Roberson, Executive Director of NIRCO, expressed a need to fill the vital role of **Peer Recovery Support Specialist**. Workforce Development had the perfect candidate—**Pamela**, who was working on her career goals to transition from retail sales to administrative support. She was placed into a paid work experience at NIRCO in August 2022. The position allows her the opportunity to target the career she wants while applying her lived experiences. Pamela creates flyers, attends community events, and educates individuals on drug overdose prevention and other services of NIRCO. Project Analyst Feleicia Nixon-Gregory mentors Pamela during her work experience and explains, *“This is a win for everyone. Workforce can strengthen their relationship with a vital organization while supporting Pamela’s career growth.”*



Pictured above left to right: Feleicia Nixon-Gregory, Pamela, and Dr. Mary Roberson

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>