

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 Dislocated Worker training grants to fund programs designed to cultivate and connect employers and the workforce.

Lake County Workforce Development

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Workforce Development 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 internships and can fund up to 100% of the training wage.

Work experience leads to upward mobility

Shaquita left her corporate job working as an account specialist to find a new opportunity to give back to Lake County. She volunteered at Greater Waukegan Development Coalition (GWDC) in 2022, where she designed their event studio. Recognizing Shaquita's valuable contributions, management worked with Lake County Workforce Development to secure her a work experience as a **Receptionist/Executive Assistant**. Adapting quickly to her new role, Shaquita began developing relationships with key stakeholders, local legislators, and GWDC's board of directors. Further demonstrating her abilities, she successfully coordinated and hosted GWDC's 10th anniversary gala. Shaquita shared that her position provided her with purpose.

To further her professional growth, Shaquita utilized WIOA training funds to obtain certifications in Microsoft Office applications. Through her volunteering, work experience, and training, she gained the necessary skills to apply for a direct-hire position at GWDC as a **Project Manager** for the community contract project, a program that assists businesses in gaining access to grants and loans to aid their growth and development. Management recognized her as the perfect candidate for the position. She



transitioned to her new role in February 2023.

She explained, "Working as a Project Manager provides me with an opportunity to give back to the community while striving to make the economy better." Shaquita shared that the services she received from Workforce Development helped her achieve her career goal to work in a field that she is passionate about. Her advice to future job seekers is, "Trust that all the dreams you want, want you back."

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 for unemployed and underemployed individuals to gain necessary skills and industry credentials to compete in the current market.

Training leads to a new career

Patrick visited the Job Center to pursue his career of choice to become a truck driver. His career goal was not solely based on his childhood interest in trucks, but also his desire for financial independence and job insights from his brother who is currently a truck driver. Through his research, he learned about the high wages commercial truck drivers can earn, and the training and credentials needed to drive semi-trucks. Patrick qualified for a training grant through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and enrolled in a training program at 160 Driving Academy to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL). Patrick's persistence paid off. He started training in October 2022, earned his CDL in two months, and was hired as a local truck driver for Pepsi in February 2023. He transports products to various locations and uses an electric pallet jack to load, unload, and stock products.

Patrick has reported that he is happy about his decision to pursue a career in trucking. He is now earning more income and working towards his goal of starting his own trucking business with his brother. His advice to job seekers is, "Keep going no matter what. Believe and keep believing in what you can do as a person."



The Job Center of Lake County strives to provide employment and training services through an integrated system that allows customers to successfully navigate services and programs provided by the 14 Job Center partners. A key partner is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) administered in Lake County by the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging.

SCSEP is an employment-training program that helps mature workers transition into meaningful employment. SCSEP covers the costs of training and wages for participants while working in supportive, real-work settings. To qualify, individuals must be 55 years of age or better and meet the program's income requirements. The goal of SCSEP is to help participants transition into unsubsidized employment as Tanya's story illustrates.

Developing skills and landing a career

Tanya spent seven years out of the workforce caring for her husband and, when it was time to return to work, she worried about the gap in her work history. Tanya qualified for SCSEP, a program designed for individuals age 55 or better who are transitioning careers and was placed at the IL Department of Children and Family Services for her paid training assignment where she assisted onsite visitors and callers.

Tanya visited the Job Center often to conduct required job search activities. She was interested in finding permanent employment in social services, showcased these relevant skills on her resume, and began applying for jobs. After 5 months in the SCSEP program, Tanya landed a full-time position at the **Home of the Sparrow** providing consultation and support for clients of the organization's transitional housing shelter. Tanya values that her job allows her to help women in need.



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>