

Workforce In Action

 **Training** a Skilled Workforce for
today's businesses

 **Connecting** People to Employers and
Employers to People

 **Developing** Employment Solutions
for the future

Located across from the Government Center
at 500 Russel Court in Woodstock, IL,
McHenry County Workforce Network has a
variety of programs and services for employers
and job seekers needing assistance in meeting
the challenges of today's job market.

We are an affiliate of Illinois workNet
which is a consolidated effort to provide a
one-stop system for employment related
services in McHenry County and part of a
nation-wide, grant funded system.

March 2025



500 Russel Ct., Woodstock, IL 60098
www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com



McHenry County Workforce Network

These are but a small sample of the successes our Workforce Program Participants who have taken advantage of the workshops, career advising, resume reviews, training opportunities and the many other tools available through the McHenry County Workforce Center.

See more of our workforce program customer stories at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com

Project SEARCH Class of 2024/25

The Project Search interns at Northwestern Medicine-Huntley are now moving into the third round of internships in their program. Multiple interns have already started interviewing with outside companies as they prepare for employment after the Project Search program. We wish all the interns luck with their upcoming interviews and are so excited to see where they will continue their employment journeys after Project Search.

Young Adult Stories

The Young Adult program also hosted a group of students from Haber Oaks school in Crystal Lake for a resume and interview preparation session at the Workforce Center. The students came to the office and met with Career Planners who reviewed their resumes that they had created in class to prepare them as they begin their job search. The students also met with Bob Lueders, a volunteer who runs the resume and interviewing skills events monthly at the Workforce Center, to discuss how to approach the interview portion of their job search. The students and teachers said that the event was very beneficial, and the Workforce Staff appreciated how prepared all the students were!

Bryce L. (60051)

Bryce entered the Youth Program with a desire to increase his career prospects. He had recently graduated from high school and had worked various part time jobs but was unsure what he wanted to do in the future. As Bryce worked with his Career Planner, it was clear that he learned best when he could be “hands on” and engaged while trying new things. After exploring occupational training options together, Bryce wanted to complete a Welding Technology program that would allow him to become a Certified Welder and expand his job prospects. With Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding assistance, Bryce was able to enroll in a training program through First Institute at their mobile welding technology lab. Bryce completed this training, attending every class in the mobile lab, even through the frigid temperatures in January and February. Bryce’s dedication paid off, as he passed his certification tests and is now a certified welder! He is now working with his Career Planner to find employment that will allow him to put his new skills to work.



Elijah Wedwick (Career Planner), Bryce L. (Youth Workforce Participant)

Participant Successes

Elvin L. (60050)

Elvin had faced long-term unemployment and struggled with transitioning out of his previous industry. With no formal credentials or relevant work experience to lean on, he found it difficult to take the next step in his career.

Working closely with his career planner, Elvin was able to explore his skills, interests, and work values. This process was key to helping him realize that he wanted to pursue a new career as a Heavy Truck Driver.



Elvin L. (Workforce Participant)

Through the McHenry County Workforce Network, Elvin was able to access WIOA funding, which covered the cost of his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training. This financial support removed a major challenge and allowed Elvin to fully focus on acquiring the skills needed to succeed in his new career.

Elvin completed 240 hours of CDL training, diving into both classroom instruction and hands-on driving experience. He was determined to pass the CDL test, and his hard work paid off when he passed on his first attempt, a major milestone in his journey.

Today, Elvin is thriving in his new career as a Heavy Truck Driver. He secured full-time employment with a local window installation company, where he is not only earning a stable income but also enjoying the satisfaction of working in a role that aligns with his skills and interests.

Cristhian A. (60012)

Cristhian moved to the United States from Mexico with the goal of creating a brighter future. After being laid off from a two-year position with a construction company as a laborer, Cristhian faced unemployment and struggled to find promising opportunities. Determined to change his career path, he contacted the McHenry County Workforce Network for support.

With assistance of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, Cristhian enrolled in the Residential/Commercial HVAC Technician/Electrician Training Program at the Chicago Professional Center. With this opportunity, he successfully completed his certification and transitioned into a new career. Cristhian is now employed full-time as an Electrical Maintenance Technician, thriving in his new field and building a stable future for himself.

Coraima M. (60033)

To say that Coraima was juggling a lot is an understatement. Being a mother of two young children is busy enough but adding full-time, minimum wage work on top of that adds another level of commitment. Despite this, Coraima knew that finding a new career path that would allow her a livable wage and stability was important. This career journey began here at the Workforce Network when Coraima applied for our adult program.

Being a single parent meant that she would have to make sacrifices in order to achieve her goal of obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) license. Luckily for Coraima, the financial contribution provided by the WIOA grant covered the cost of the training, eliminating a barrier that can deter even the most determined individuals.

The training program in which Coraima was enrolled allowed her the flexibility to attend training, work part-time, and be home for her children. Not only did Coraima successfully complete the training and obtain her CDL-A license she was also “one of the most dedicated students” in her training class according to her instructor.

Danette T. (60050)

Danette joined McHenry County Workforce Network’s WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) Program in April 2024, seeking assistance in finding a job. She was placed as an intern in an administrative role at the Workforce Network, where she made valuable contributions. During her internship, she supported the Workforce's Step Forward program, entered time sheets and case notes, and created an Excel sheet to track interns' hours—an essential tool still in use today.

After her internship at the Workforce, Danette began a new internship with McHenry County’s Emergency Management department, where she helped organize files and assisted with data entry. Her supervisor praised her for doing a great job and being very helpful.

In December 2024, Danette started her final internship in a Customer Service role at a local paper distribution company. She excelled in the position, impressing her supervisors. At the end of her internship, she was offered a permanent position, where she continues to thrive and enjoy her work.

Dannette said, “The McHenry County Workforce helped me find the courage to face the future. Their STEP Forward program helped me work on my people and interviewing skills. The internships allowed me to refresh and build on my office skills. With these new abilities, I found the drive to improve myself and my circumstances. They not only opened doors for me, but they also helped me walk through. I am grateful to MCWF and the WIOA program for the opportunities and abilities they have given me.”



Danette T. (Workforce Participant), Jamie Spinelli (Human Resources Manager)

Business Words: Baxter Credit Union

BCU's partnership with the McHenry County Workforce Program has proven to be a remarkable success. This collaboration aims to assist job seekers facing today's challenging job market by providing them with valuable experience in the banking industry. BCU's goal is to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel as member service representatives. One of the first candidates from McHenry County joined the program at BCU's Crystal Lake branch with no prior banking experience. Through dedicated coaching and training, the individual gained confidence and proficiency in customer service, troubleshooting, problem-solving, and attention to detail.

After successfully completing the program, the candidate applied for an open role at another BCU branch and was offered the position. Since then, he has been excelling in his new role, demonstrating the effectiveness of the partnership. BCU's support helped him harness his fast-learning abilities, step up his skills, and grow within the organization. We are thrilled about our new team member and look forward to hosting additional Workforce McHenry candidates.

You can see more stories at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com or stop in and meet the staff:

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