


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.

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MCHENRY COUNTY · IL

MCHENRY COUNTY
Workforce Network



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 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Programs and Services.

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



PROJECT SEARCH

Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital

Project SEARCH interns have successfully completed Round 2 of 3 internships, and we are so proud of all they have learned and accomplished. They are now over halfway through the program and continue to build valuable job and workplace readiness skills.



This progress would not have been possible without

the support of over 10 departments and the many mentors and managers who generously gave their time and guidance. Your dedication to our interns and the Project SEARCH mission makes a meaningful difference.

Project SEARCH is officially in the Job Development phase of the program! This is the time when we shift our focus to seeking competitive employment in the community.

Young Adult Stories

Kayla W. (60050)

Joining the Workforce Network Young Adult program in 2022 as an out-of-school youth, Kayla participated in work experiences to develop her clerical skills, but she was unsuccessful in finding regular employment. She was accepted into the Fall 2024 cohort of Project Search. The combination of classroom support in soft skills and job search strategies, and 3 separate work experiences within Northwestern Huntley Hospital— in the Registration department, as a Utility Aide in the Food and Nutrition Department, and in the Laboratory Department. Her job search efforts resulted in her obtaining employment with a rehab/long term care facility in Woodstock as an Activity Aide. In her new role, she leads group activities as well as one-on-one sessions with residents. Kayla assists in changing and updating the bulletin board in the main hallway. Kayla is working on planning her own activities to add to their group activity calendar. Kayla reported that she is happy and loves her job. Workforce Network staff wishes Kayla much success in her new career in the Healthcare field.

Samuel D. (60050)

Sam participated in Workforce Network Youth Services previously—the first time in 2021 when he completed a work experience with Workforce Network to develop his clerical and accounting skills and took accounting classes at McHenry County College funded by Illinois Dept. of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services. While he had some success finding part-time employment, he had not found self-sustaining employment. In 2024, he once again applied for Workforce Network Youth services and was accepted into the Project Search program. In Project Search, he had the benefits of classroom training to develop soft skills and learn job search strategies, as well as developing his social skills. He completed 3 structured internships at Huntley Hospital—first as an assistant in the Oncology Department, then moving to the Emergency Department, and a final experience in the Supply Chain Department where he was responsible for stocking and distributing medical supplies throughout the hospital. With his job search focusing on his new skill sets, Sam's had success finding full-time employment with a manufacturer in Lake In The Hills, where his work responsibilities include stapling laminated sheets and putting them through a heated press, working on multiple presses throughout the day. Workforce Network staff congratulate Sam on his success on the job and wish him all the best in his new career.

Participant Successes

Jesse A. (60034)

Jesse applied for Workforce Network assistance in November 2024 after being laid off from his position as an operator. Jesse worked with his career planner on career planning and job search activities. Jesse obtained his Commercial Driver's License, class A, while in the WIOA program and obtained employment for a building contractor in Genoa City, Wisconsin. He is currently engaged in an apprenticeship and has two years remaining. His current job title is Heavy Equipment Operator. Congratulations, Jesse, on embarking on this new career path.

Laura D. (60142)

Laura came to McHenry County Workforce Network with an interest in a career in nursing. At the time she was working as a hostess in the restaurant industry. She needed additional financial assistance to reach her goals. Laura met with a career planner and reviewed her job experience, skills, and goals. She also completed required testing to assess her academic abilities. The cost of her program of study exceeded WIOA funding limitations. She was instructed to find other resources to help her with her tuition, enroll and begin her program of study. She agreed to come back and reapply for the WIOA program when she could demonstrate that she had successfully completed half of her classes and the remaining tuition was within WIOA funding limits. She followed the guidelines, reapplied, and came back to work with the same career planner. Her grades and progress toward her goal were evaluated and it was determined that WIOA funding for the training program of her choice was appropriate. This is an example of the flexibility of the WIOA program and is a credit to the customer's follow-through and effort. By partnering with her career planner, and with the help of the WIOA program she was able to complete school and earned her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Laura was hired by a company where she could use her newly gained skills and further her career. She is very grateful for the assistance she received.

Joe T. (60102)

Joe came to the McHenry County Workforce Network after being laid off from his last job following a career in Information Technology. Joe met with a career planner who reviewed his previous work experience, skills, and goals. Together, they determined that while he was qualified for employment, he needed additional certifications to achieve his goals in the increasingly competitive IT job market.

With the guidance of his career planner, he was able to find a school and program of study that would meet his needs. With the help of the WIOA program, Joe was able to complete school and acquire the certifications he needed. Joe obtained a job in his field and is happy with the efficient and thorough service he received at the McHenry County Workforce Network. He is very grateful for the assistance he received and has benefited greatly from our services.

Don W. (60102)

Don came to the McHenry County Workforce Network after being laid off from his most recent job in logistics. He wanted to move into a long-term career. Don met with a career planner and reviewed the job experience and skills he had developed during his previous work. Although he had many years of success, he did not have some essential certifications that would support his career goals.

Don and his career planner determined that CDL training supported by the WIOA program would help him secure employment and move forward in his career. With the help of his career planner, he found suitable training and enrolled in a program. He successfully completed his training, earned his Commercial Driver's License, and secured a job as a truck driver.

The job search resources offered by Workforce, along with the opportunity to improve his skill set through the WIOA program, were key to his success. He is very grateful for the help he received during this challenging time.

The Employer's Voice

Imago Manufacturing LLC. (60098)

"It's every machinist's dream to have a shop that can run itself. Whether it's measuring, loading parts, or unloading them, every automated job means more time for my guys to be hands-on with another task. The AI5X Smart Assistant is Imago's latest and largest leap toward this dream of automation. With no previous experience operating the Smart Assistant, the grant-funded training was instrumental in getting the team up to speed. Over the course of the training, our team learned how to install, set up, calibrate, program, and monitor all of the machine-tending system's operations. It covered every base efficiently and, most importantly, made it easy for everyone to understand. Thanks to the continued support of the McHenry County Workforce Network's manufacturing training grant program, the comprehensive training was an essential step in further solidifying Imago's status as a leader in lights-out machining."

— Ryan Bankel, CEO, Imago Manufacturing LLC



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

McHenry County Workforce Network, 500 Russel Ct., Woodstock, IL 60098

815-338-7100 | workforcesolutions@mchenrycountyil.gov

To view the US Department of Labor Disclaimer, visit <https://tinyurl.com/US-DL-Disclaimer>

