

NWIWB briefs



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A monthly newsletter from the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board

Press Conference & Ribbon Cutting

Walmart Grant Allows for NW Indiana Rise in Retail Initiative



The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) held a press conference on September 8th to announce that they are the recipients of a \$387,421 grant from Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, made possible through funding from the Walmart Foundation. The grant will allow the strengthening of retail industry careers in Lake County through awareness efforts and training recognized by the National Retail Federation and the Retail Loss Prevention Foundation. With a full room for the press conference, those in attendance included local elected officials, chamber executives and members, Walmart Foundation representatives, economic developers, tourism executives, and media.

[Click here for more on the press conference and initiative](#)



NWIWB member recognized by Indiana Association of Adult and Continuing Educators



NWIWB member and Adult Education Coordinator for La Porte County, Clausell Harding, was recently recognized with the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Indiana Association of Adult and Continuing Educators. Harding implemented the High School Equivalency (HSE/formerly GED) program while serving as the Adult Education Coordinator in La Porte County and has worked to apply career and college readiness goals into the program.

Harding has worked in adult education for 20 years and served as principal of Lew Wallace High School for seven years.



NWIWB Members Featured in First Jobs Series

Learning work skills is vital in helping a young person function independently in the community--become self sufficient. Work skills are equally important in contributing to a positive experience in a post-secondary education and training environment, and for thriving in social situations. The past several years and nationwide, youth have had difficulty securing a job, whether it's for part-time, summer, or full time work. The NWIWB Youth Employment Council is working to make sure employers in NW Indiana understand the importance of that first job and how they can contribute by taking that first step in providing a young person with a work experience.

NWIWB Youth Employment Council recently partnered with The Times, on a First Jobs series. Through a Q & A format, the series profiles individuals and their first job, while touching on lessons learned from that first work experience. Check out the profiles at [Times First Job Series](#).

If you you would like to share your first job with us, contact Barb Grimsgard at 219-462-2940, ext. 28 or email bgrimsgard@innovativeworkforce.com.

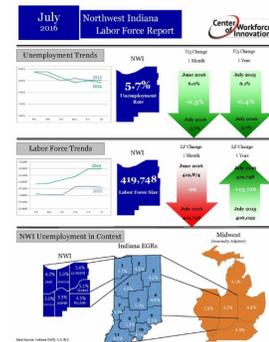


Recent LMI Snapshot Now Available

Take a look at the most recent Regional Labor Market Information Snapshot. Find out where we stand on unemployment trends, labor force trends, and NW Indiana unemployment in context to regional, state, and the Midwest.

[Full Size Snapshot](#)

If you are need of labor market information, please contact Stefan Barkow, Workforce Associate-Research & Development at 219-462-2940, ext. 31 or sbarkow@innovativeworkforce.com.



Occupational Shifts Favor Education

Commentary reprint by Michael Hicks, Ph.D.



Labor Day is an opportune time to write about American jobs and what the national employment picture means for Midwestern workers. I'll start with employment changes, both by occupation and by educational attainment.

The most startling labor market fact is that for the past quarter century, total employment has declined for workers with a high school diploma or less. From 2007 to 2015 (the most recent available data), total employment has risen by 3.2 percent, or 4 million jobs.

However, employment by workers without a college degree has declined by 7.2 percent, or more than 5.1 million jobs, over the same time period. [Read full article](#)



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