

NWIWB Briefs



Issue 45 • July 21, 2015

Meet the 2015-16 Northwest Indiana Workforce Board

On Thursday, July 16, the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board confirmed their new officers and members for the 2015-2016 year. Board members represent Jasper, Lake, La Porte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke counties and include business, education, labor, community, and economic development leaders. They are responsible for the strategic vision of workforce development and governance of the region's WorkOne one-stop system, facilitate and manage connections to key resources in the workforce and education arena, and support efforts on programming that plant and nurture the seed of entrepreneurship. The Board works with economic developers, employers, and economists to determine current and future skill needs.

NWIWB Officers

Chair—George Douglas, Chief Operating Officer-Indiana Beverage **Secretary—David Broad**, Co-Owner-Alliance E.M.S.
Vice Chair — Mary Lewis, Accounting Manager-I.G.C. Residential **Treasurer—Frank Cardello**, Chief Financial Officer-Packaging Logic Property Management

NWIWB Members

Debi Bauman-IU Health LaPorte Hospital, Jim Clarida-IBEW Local 531, Tom Coley-Ivy Tech, Kris Emaus-NW Indiana Works Council, Ric Frataccia-Valparaiso Community Schools, Rich Gamblin-Ironworker Local 395, Clausell Harding-AK Smith Center, Rayanna Henderson-Porter Health Care System, Keith Kirkpatrick-KPM Group, Kristine Lukowski-Republic Services, Bonnie Maxey-Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Joe Medellin-ArcelorMittal, Gary Miller-Prompt Ambulance, Karen Morlan-American Licorice Co., Dan Murchek-NW Indiana Federation of Labor, Gary Olund-NW Indiana Communication Action, Arlene Pearson-Edgewater Systems, Arnold Ransom-Family & Social Services Administration, Barbara Sacha-ArcelorMittal, Bob Schaefer-Community Dynamics, Ben Scheiner-Galfab, Chris Smith-NiSource, Judith Stanton-Hobart Law Office. Linda Woloshansky continues as staff liaison to the NWIWB.

Employer Highlight: Listening and assisting employers is a key objective of the Workforce Board

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board's vision is to have a workforce that is highly skilled, motivated and diverse, and is earning sustainable or higher wages, and actively engaged in skill advancement and life long learning. Their mission is to mobilize and integrate the leadership, services, and resources of the community to support workforce development.

One vital goal of the Workforce Board is to address employer needs and **improve their access to qualified workers, while also connecting them with training resources that will ensure a well skilled and productive workforce.** The Workforce Board continues to take steps in reaching out and working with employers through their Business Service Team.

Recently, **Huhtamaki, Inc.**, a global manufacturer of consumer and specialty packaging, worked with the Northwest Indiana WorkOne on recruiting efforts for their Hammond facility. The company was established in 1947 in Finland and is part of Huhtamaki North America, which has 16 plants and serves local markets with Chinet® brand disposable tableware and ice cream containers.

WorkOne created an in-depth job candidate and pre-screening process to ensure qualified candidates were selected for Huhtamaki. In addition, WorkOne conducted preliminary telephone interviews, trained selected candidates on interviewing techniques and offered job readiness skills training.

Not only were several multiple entry level positions filled, Huhtamaki secured a high level Intern through the WorkOne's Skills Building Institute (SBI) program, who was eventually hired on full time. Chynell Johnson, Huhtamaki Human Resources Manager said, "the Intern hired has proven to be a valuable asset to the company, assisting the Engineering Manager with various projects." Johnson also indicated that WorkOne candidates were recognized by their quality.

For information on a no cost consultation and assistance on recruitment or training efforts and resources for your company, contact WorkOne Business Service Manager,



WorkOne Working Hand in Hand with Business

No cost consulting and assistance with:

- Hiring
- Recruitment
- Reduction in workforce
- Labor market information

Contact us about our many no-cost programs and services!

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Youth Employment Council encourages summer employment

PROVIDE A SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE for your business or for your home

Free up time for some of your staff

Get some things done that you have been putting off

Get a project started that's been on hold

According to the Department of Labor, last year only 51.9% of youth between the ages of 16-24 were employed during the month of July.

The youth of our region are struggling to get summer work experience so that they are able to develop the skills they need to pursue their goals, dreams, and long term economic opportunities. In response, the **Northwest Indiana Workforce Board's Youth Employment Council** is asking employers to take a chance on a young person and provide them with a work experience this summer. "Whether it's for a short-term or long-term project—employers can have an impact on our future workforce by hiring a young person this summer," said Keith Kirkpatrick, Chair of the NWIWB Youth Employment Council.

The goal of the summer work initiative is to create pathways of employment and self-sufficiency for young people that will contribute to a stronger, smarter workforce that is work-ready.

What can they do?

IN THE WORKPLACE

- Reception/answering phones
- Stuffing envelopes/mail
- Telemarketing
- Clean and organize storage
- Call customers with surveys
- Cashier work
- Filing or data entry
- Label making

AROUND YOUR HOME

- Clean out the garage
- Dispose of stuff you need to pitch
- Dog walking/pet grooming
- Planting flowers
- Window washing
- Cleaning gutters
- Childcare/eldercare
- Raking/spreading mulch
- Grocery shopping
- House cleaning
- Set up home technology

ANYWHERE

- Washing vehicles
- Cleaning
- Mowing/trimming/weeding
- Making deliveries
- Painting
- Moving furniture
- Website development and/or research
- Fix technology

Numbers and Rankings Related to the Labor Market in the Region and Hoosier State

2014 NW Indiana Labor Force	Number	Rank of 12	Percent of State	Indiana
Total Resident Labor Force	403,575	3	12.5%	3,230,540
Employed	373,158	3	12.3%	3,035,581
Unemployed	30,417	1	15.6%	194,959
Annual Unemployment Rate	7.5	1	125.0%	6.0
May 2015 Unemployment Rate	6.4	1	133.3%	4.8

Source: [STATS Indiana](#), using data from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Currently

Currently in the Hoosier State

Indiana's labor force participant rate has outperformed the national average for 20 months in a row.

Indiana's Private Sector has grown 29,400 jobs in 2015, which ranks 11th in the U.S.

Indiana's unemployment rate decrease of -3.3% since January 2013, and -5.7% since July 2009 both rank 3rd in the nation.