

DWD INSIDER

SEPTEMBER 2024

NEWS + INFORMATION FOR DWD EMPLOYEES

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August MVV Award Winners

Congratulations to David Douglass, Shane Durham, and Judy Hasselkus for being named the August Most Valuable Visionary (MVV) Award recipients.

September MVV nominations must be submitted by September 25. Click the following link to access the nomination form: <https://forms.office.com/g/seE23TAAIi>.



Douglass (left) was nominated for his willingness to assist with meeting preparation, technology-related needs, and activity organization. In fact, recently, he voluntarily played a significant role in a NASWA group meeting and work session while assuring meeting space was adequately prepared and the day's agenda ran smoothly.

Durham (right) received two separate nominations.

From proactively covering for supervisors who may unexpectedly be unavailable to providing cross-training assistance, one of his nominators said Durham has been increasingly more involved in VME task/

record management and is always willing to assist with VME event entry for those who need to be out of the office.



For Hasselkus (below), it was her ongoing efforts to assist and celebrate the team members she works with at three WorkOne offices in Region 4 that mainly earned her a nomination. Beyond that, the person who nominated Hasselkus said she "selflessly serves others at DWD in planning retirement parties, gathering peers for in-person meetings, organizing team building activities for RSM meetings, and more."



A Note from Commissioner Paulk



Team DWD,



Another Labor Day has come and gone but the significance of the federal holiday and how it relates to the work we do and the people we serve daily holds true no matter what time of year it is.

Traditionally celebrated on the first Monday of September, Labor Day is meant to recognize and honor the American labor movement, and the significant contributions workers have made to the developments and achievements of the United States. It became an official holiday June 28, 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed a bipartisan bill into law following a burgeoning movement by trade unionists for a specific day to be set aside for celebrating labor.

Today, DWD's efforts help strengthen Indiana's overall workforce as well as the work-related status of many Hoosiers, individually. In fact, thanks in part to our workforce programs, Indiana's July 2024 unemployment rate was 4.0% compared to a national unemployment rate of 4.3%. Additionally, from 2007 to 2023, average hourly earnings grew 49% in Indiana. One other interesting note I'd like to share is that since 2017, Indiana has grown faster than the nation in productivity. Our success in upskilling Hoosiers is a direct result of what you do.

You are making a difference in the lives of many. Thank you for helping us collectively celebrate Labor Day every day.

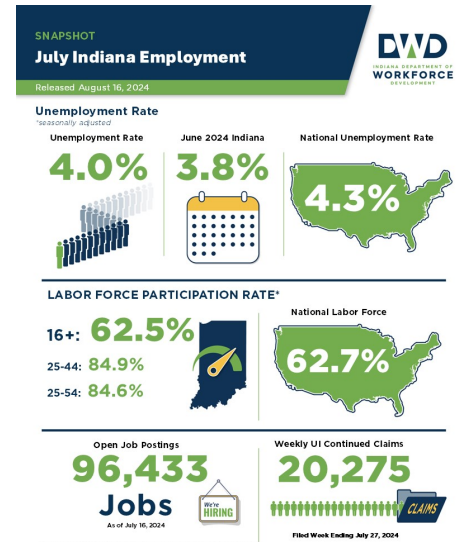
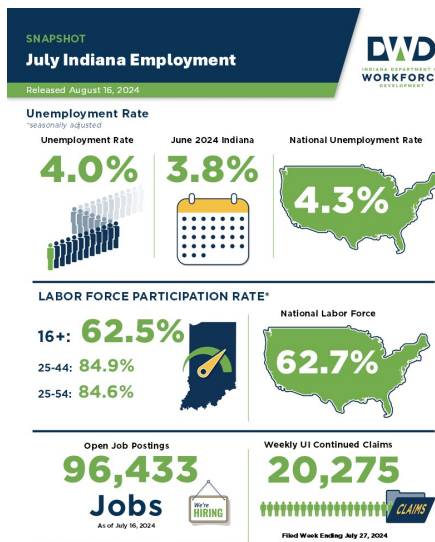
Warmest Regards,
Richard

***Click on the following link to see a special Workforce Development Month video from Commissioner Paulk - <https://youtu.be/J5dJRFZRH-U>

July Employment Report

Indiana's July unemployment rate stood at 4.0%, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate for July was 4.3%.

Indiana's labor force participation rate of 62.5% is now .1% higher than it was in June but still slightly below the national rate of 62.7%.



PPMO Already Benefiting SIDES Project

DWD's Project Portfolio Management Office (PPMO) was introduced only a few months ago but team members and the concepts they're sharing are already having an impact on the agency by creating consistency in how groups manage priorities and helping develop cohesion across businesses within DWD. For example, PPMO guidance has been instrumental in helping create smooth and efficient workflow while ensuring a strong work environment in relation to the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) project, which launched in July.

"SIDES is a NASWA product. The first phase of the SIDES project involves Single Sign On (SSO) capabilities," said DWD's Suzanne Manning, SIDES Owner/UI Benefits Subject Matter Expert and Director of UI Benefits Administration. "It's largely employer focused. SIDES has its own look and feel but we're reducing the number of doors an employer has to go through to access information with SSO."

PPMO Senior Project Manager Kim Peck had to first familiarize herself with SIDES before assuming the role of project lead for the initiative.

"I had to understand what it is and how it connects to Uplink and ESS," she said. Once there, Peck implemented PPMO practices, beginning with analysis and formulating a plan housed within a PPMO template.

"Every project has phases, roles, and responsibilities," she said. "You have to look at the overall body in scope and ask who the players are. You then have to look for gaps in some templates. After we did a gap analysis, we made sure we would be able to communicate effectively to project stakeholders."

"I worked with (PPMO Director Kelly Sandstrom) to create a project checklist, built it out in Excel, and then in SharePoint."

The group introduced what it refers to as its Charter Starter—a combination sign-off phase and kickoff July 11 when team members presented a plan overview and timeline for consideration and approval by sponsors, key stakeholders, and leadership.

Since that time, with a May 15, 2025, target completion date, the project has moved along efficiently and progressed according to plan.

"PPMO has been a great help and Kim has been a wonderful project manager," Manning said. "She has a very optimistic and enthusiastic approach and helps make sure all the different units are connected and doing their job. Her organizational skills are just off the chart."

In addition, Manning said the PPMO structure has also helped project team members understand the importance of having regularly scheduled meetings and how to prepare for those sessions. Shane Kelly is the project's technical lead and product owner for employer services.

"PPMO has provided some additional structure around the project," he said. "It has helped us plan around what is needed and when."

Kelly is also appreciative of the guidance and direction Peck has provided while working side-by-side with team members.

"Kim is in our meetings, understanding the issues and risks we're facing and helping to remove them," he added. "For those things that don't necessarily fall under our umbrella, she's taking charge and taking them to others."

Like her teammates, Manning is already sold on the many benefits PPMO brings to the table. "PPMO is a huge asset to have in these big projects, but I can also see how it would be beneficial to have them involved in smaller projects."

Obviously, Peck agrees.

"I want everyone to understand that we're a partner and that PPMO is a partnership to success," she said.

Getting to Know the DWD MarComms Team

Lindsay Lindsey - *Chief of Marketing and Communication*

As head of the MarComms team, I design the marketing and communication strategy for DWD. This includes reviewing projects to approve, use of brand guides and messaging, coordinating team member tasks within our projects, and updating DWD leaders on our efforts. I also help intake project needs from the various groups the MarComms team serves within DWD.

Stephanie Genrich - *Marketing Director*

I oversee all marketing projects from creating the best strategy to implementation. This often requires working backwards while identifying the target audience and asking additional questions. For large projects, I act as the conduit between DWD and the external group. For smaller projects, I work with our graphic designer, videographer or web developer to create content.

Elizabeth Presson - *Communication Director*

As the head of external public relations and internal communications, I create and review DWD messaging. Additionally, I lead all communication strategies and act as the agency spokesperson. I also build media relations, handle crisis communication coordination and ensure consistency in messaging.

Matt Hetzel - *Webmaster*

My primary areas of responsibility include website development, web analytics and digital accessibility. I work with DWD colleagues and regional partners on designing, editing, and managing in.gov web pages and internal facing sites. Additionally, I analyze web traffic data and create dashboards for DWD departments and work to make digital content more accessible.

Trae Hester - *Multimedia Specialist (Videographer)*

As a multimedia specialist, I create content using video, photography, graphics, illustrations, and sound. My work is used on the web and through social media. I also design, develop, edit, and deliver engaging DWD media packages.

Greg Seiter - *Communications Consultant*

A lot of my work is focused on internal communications but some of what I do also has external relevance. I create and design DWD's monthly INSider newsletter and internal message boards. I also spearhead the agency's monthly report to the Governor's office, write bi-weekly website blog stories, update the Job Postings map, represent the department on DWD's ECC team and edit/proofread documents for MarComms and other DWD areas as well.

Luke MacGregor - *Graphic Designer*

My primary areas of responsibility include branding, visual communication, and photography. I work in both internal and external visual communication and will be striving to make a more cohesive and robust brand for DWD. The kinds of things I work with on a daily basis are documents, presentations, logos, typography, social posts, posters, flyers and data visualizations.

Sarah Potter - *Director of Government and Legislative Affairs*

Focusing on legislation and governmental relations, my primary responsibilities include working on legislation and serving as the liaison between the agency, members of the legislature, and the Governor's Office. I help create the agency's legislative proposals for upcoming legislative sessions, and then during each session, I meet with legislators and attend committee hearings to discuss our proposals and gain enough support for them to be passed into law. I monitor all legislation that may impact the agency and work to neutralize bills that don't serve our agency's goals.

Andrew Willett - *Intern*

As an audio/video intern, I shoot video and create videos. My main focus with DWD is now with OW-BLA through which I will be helping tell impactful stories and creating videos for both internal and external use.

Data Governance Corner

Data Strategy is Rolling

Submitted by Diana Barrett and Stephanie Semaan

Data Governance Office is excited to announce the kickoff of our previously announced Data Strategy process ([June INsider, p. 6](#))!

Creation of DWD's Data Strategy is one of the key initiatives for enhancing our data capabilities and driving our agency goals forward.

This project will be supported by [CSpring](#) through the following key activities:

1. **Current State Assessment Report:** Evaluation of our existing data infrastructure and practices.
2. **Data Maturity Assessment Report:** Analysis of our current data management maturity.
3. **Data Strategy Plan:** A comprehensive plan outlining our data strategy through seamless introduction of improved practices.
4. **Data Strategy Implementation Roadmap:** A detailed roadmap for implementing our data strategy.

We anticipate completing these activities by the end of Q1 2025.

If you have data strategy experience from your current or previous job, or even if you have never been involved with any activities related to data strategy, we would love to hear from you and discuss how you can get involved. Please reach out to us at DataOfficer@dwd.in.gov.



DWD Standing Ovation

The DWD Standing Ovation is a digital sticker that can be presented to any individual who showcases DWD values. Employees can award one another with a Standing Ovation or even extend it to external partners. The key is that recipients should truly showcase the Values of DWD.



The sticker (shown to the left) is available for download on the DWD Intranet.

Employees are encouraged to remember that they're the judge when it comes to determining if and when someone deserves a Standing Ovation.

Recognizing individuals in this way is a small but powerful gesture to let someone know their efforts were noticed and appreciated. It's also a great way to encourage all DWD team members to uphold agency values.

September State Employment Anniversaries

Name	Years	Name	Years	Name	Years
Michael Gaunnac	48	Dorothy Wilkins	10	Camille Cogar	2
Michael Botkin	43	Sheila Jefferson	10	Ronalda Whitfield	2
Barbara Milligan	39	James Webb	10	Troy Tumey	2
Mary Burns	36	Amber Rogers	8	Ciani Harper	2
Jerry Haffner	30	Monica Prenatt	8	Jamie Couch	2
Larry Hoskins	30	Leah Day	8	Kara Frye	2
Timeka Sellars	21	Kristina Shepard	7	Kirstyn Nohlecek	2
Jewell Jenkins-Patrick	20	Robert Martin	7	Krystle Alvarado	2
Bonnie Maxey	20	Beth Greene	7	Nicholas Widlowski	2
Bernadette Hurley	19	Lizthe Roman	7	Sarah Denney	2
Patrick Hill	19	Matthew Hoxworth	7	Schuyler Esau	2
Randall Hughett	19	Michele Wilkinson	7	Justin Honeycutt	1
Stephanie Genrich	19	Oreatha Crosby	7	Steve Hardin	1
Gregory Steuer	17	Sandra Bush	7		
Shelley McClintock	16	Shannon Jones	7		
Waunita Thompson	14	Richard Bedel	6		
Jillian Gregory	13	Elizabeth Kuntz	5		
William Sellers	13	Chau Regan	5		
Heather Pham	12	Amy Burton	4		
Hualei Zhang	11	James Fountain	4		
Jay Parks	11	Jonathan Preston	4		
Michael Riley	11	Travis Higham	4		
Yoesbelia Palacios	11	Adam Colone	4		
Jason Landfald	11	Amber Hohman	4		
		Kimberly Patcheak	3		
		Michelle Nelson	3		
		Paige Button	3		
		Debra Dawn	3		
		Zoe Francis	3		
		Aaron Ford	2		

**Special thanks to SPD for providing this information.*

Employment anniversary dates reflect State of Indiana agency employment, NOT DWD-specific start dates.

Employee Spotlight - Barb Milligan

By Andrew Willett

A homegrown Hoosier and 39-year state employee, Barb Milligan emphasizes family values and group unity when building a team-based work environment as DWD's Assistant Director of Grant, Contracts and Procurement.

While growing up in Monrovia, IN, Milligan developed an appreciation for family early in life. She started high school in Monrovia but ultimately graduated from Perry Meridian High School (Indianapolis) in 1984.

"I lived next door to my grandparents, which was great," Milligan said. "that's where I learned the value of a close family."

"I also have an identical twin sister, which is pretty neat. We are really close and talk to each other every day."

After high school, Milligan took a few college courses but eventually chose to go in another direction. Her first job was at a McDonald's and then she spent some time working at a grocery store.

"I went from fast food and grocery store work straight into office work," she said.

She joined the Department of Administration (IDOA) as a file clerk in September of 1985 and then took on responsibilities associated with food purchasing, IT product purchasing, and contract compliance for the state of Indiana.

She moved on to DWD in October 2001, joining the agency as a Purchasing Specialist before advancing to the position of Purchasing Manager. Later, she took on the Grants Department.

In 2004, Milligan became Procurement Director, a position she still holds today.

Milligan now oversees everything purchased through the agency from high-dollar contracts to day-to-day items and all dollars granted to DWD's recipients.

However, through it all, Milligan insists her favorite part of the job is being a part of the camaraderie that exists between all DWD's different finance departments.

"It's not that way in every agency, but (DWD) finance is a close-knit group. We work together to get the job done," she said. "It starts with two wonderful group leads, Jennifer Michael and Julie Sheppard."

Outside of work, Milligan enjoys vacationing and spending time with family. Last summer, she successfully combined the two while renting a nine-bedroom house for 30 people at Panama City Beach, Florida. But for Milligan and her husband, Jim, it all comes back to family, which is part of the reason why the two often host grandchildren on weekends.

"My favorite thing (when vacationing) is to go to the beach. We did that as a family and had a blast. We are just a tight-knit family," she said. "On Sundays, we go to church and then have Sunday dinner together."



Employee Spotlight - Mary Burns

By Andrew Willett

Mary Burns is extremely proud of her professional growth through 36 years at DWD. Her current title is Adjudication Program Director.

"When I first started, I did not have a clue about unemployment offices or laws or anything," Burns said. "I am very proud of my accomplishments and knowledge in the unemployment system."



She is from the Indianapolis area and went to Broad Ripple High School. A standout athlete there, Burns went to Kentucky State University on a basketball scholarship. Unfortunately, she suffered a torn ACL and could not continue her career.

Before earning her degree, Burns became a mother and worked a few odd jobs to help provide for her family. She was a cashier and scheduler at a grocery store, worked part-time at a liquor store, and scheduled people and managed security at an office. Ultimately, her first job at DWD came in 1988 as an Hourly Claims Taker.

Eventually, Burns returned to school and graduated from IUPUI in 1998 with a degree in Criminal Justice. While she dreamed of a career as an appointed judge, she decided to stay in State government.

"When I was seeking other employment in the criminal justice system, unfortunately, it was not paying as much as I was making at DWD," Burns said. "So, I continued with the department."

Burns moved from DWD's tax department to the contact center where she gained permanent status. There, she was promoted to a leadership position before moving to the adjudication center as a Claims Investigator.

Burns received several promotions over the next few years and worked her way up to the role of Claims Deputy Supervisor in 2012. In 2017, she became an Assistant Director of Unemployment Programs before assuming her current role as Program Director in 2020.

Burns said her favorite part of the job is that no two situations are exactly alike. She takes pride in her experience and for having a growth mindset.

"I am hoping for a little more growth before I leave," Burns said. "I am learning everything about unemployment that you could ever imagine. It has been a good place to work."

Away from DWD, Burns prioritizes time with her husband Reese and her three adult children, Melvin, Shawkie and Shawkia, along with grandchildren Mason, Londyn and Khylan. She also enjoys couponing and travel.

"I got a really bad one (hobby). I just love to get the passport stamped. And we have a timeshare in Florida," Burns said. "Traveling is good for me. That, plus couponing, are my two favorite hobbies."

DWD Employer Engagement Team Volunteers at Indiana State Fair



The DWD Employer Engagement team recently volunteered at The Dairy Bar during the Indiana State Fair. Instead of accepting payment, the team chose to have the \$250 donation from the American Dairy Association Indiana directed to Gleaners Food Bank.

During their time at The Dairy Bar, team members served ice cream, milkshakes, and grilled cheese, demonstrating their commitment to both community service and supporting local food security initiatives.



Document Accessibility Training

Submitted by Matt Hetzel

On September 25 at noon, the DWD MarComms team will be delivering a tutorial on document accessibility. The training is meant as a refresher on how to make documents accessible in source files like Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.



During the session, we will cover the most common design elements to pay attention to when creating documents and how to make them more accessible.

No pre-registration is required, and the meeting, planned for approximately 45 minutes, will be recorded for future reference.

[Use this link to join the meeting on the 25th.](#)

ACCESSIBILITY

DWD Selects Medical Mutts as SECC Charity



DWD employees recently selected Medical Mutts as the agency's 2024 SECC charity.

Medical Mutts specializes in training rescue dogs as service dogs and promotes collaboration between dogs and people through research, education and ethical training. The 501(c)(3) is always looking for volunteers at its 6120 Allisonville Road location in Indianapolis - <https://www/medicalmutts.org/donate/volunteer>. However, in addition to generating volunteers, DWD hopes to help in many ways through a variety of SECC-related activities including a doggie photo contest, a t-shirt sale, a combination walk and dog meet-and-greet and a dog item collection event.

DWD is even helping promote an inaugural event for Medical Mutts Service Dogs that will enable the organization to rescue more dogs and help more people. The event will take place September 19. Learn more at medicalmutts.com.

Watch for additional information on DWD's support of Medical Mutts!

September Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date	Name	Date
Ellen Banschbach	9/1	Yamir Gonzalez Velez	9/9	Scott OMara	9/19
Ruth Schroeder	9/1	Sandra Arechiga	9/10	Allison Hirschy	9/21
Samantha Norris	9/1	Kyle Lively	9/10	David Rogers	9/21
Nancy White	9/2	Kelsey Lindeman	9/10	Jeffrey Tabb	9/21
Heidi Warren	9/2	Charles Baer	9/10	Melanie Porter	9/21
Gurpreet Kaur Hayher	9/3	Bridgette Price	9/10	Michael Smith	9/21
Lynnsey Furman	9/4	Julie Hamilton	9/11	Patricia Blazek	9/21
Christopher Fitzgerald	9/5	Kimberly Sunde	9/11	Traci Ewert	9/21
Claire Berger	9/5	Kevin Michels	9/12	Marilyn Pitzulo	9/22
Emelinda De la Rosa-Hernandez	9/5	Garrison Quinn	9/12	Barbara Weikart Carson	9/22
Natalie Aponte	9/5	Angeline Griffith Caudill	9/12	Amber Smith	9/24
Rashel Oesterling	9/6	Jeremie Dexter	9/13	Schuyler Esau	9/24
Kirstyn Nohlechek	9/6	Ramon Halsell	9/13	Douglas Faulls	9/24
Katlyn Lynn	9/6	Deanna Keene	9/14	Kimberlee Gabriel	9/24
Janet Garcia Hobbs	9/6	Roschell McCormack	9/15	Allison Trammell	9/25
Aaron Ford	9/7	Ryan Hoffman	9/16	Latrice Stumph	9/26
Frank Hoover	9/7	Neli Safur	9/16	Jeffrey Neuman	9/27
Gary McCauley	9/8	Kimberly Woods	9/16	Rachelle Hargis	9/27
Jessie Johnson	9/8	Jason Landfald	9/17	Joyce Wright	9/28
Katie Maddox	9/8	Melissa Edwards	9/17	Noah Shelton	9/28
Monica Prenatt	9/8	Ramona Grim	9/17	Sandra Evans	9/28
Joseph Name	9/9	Mickey King	9/18	Amy Peelman	9/28
Marisela Delgado	9/9	Geza Petro	9/18	Anita Hillman	9/29
Melissa Sheable	9/9	James Buchanan	9/18	Chad Carter	9/30
		Christopher Boger	9/18		

Leadership Profile - Missy Atsas

Missy Atsas enjoys helping people and loves the fact that her new position with DWD as Associate Director, Performance Reporting and Data Integrity, will allow her to continue to do so.

Originally from Hanna, Indiana, Atsas studied psychology at St. Joseph's College. After graduating, she was employed as a WorkOne resource specialist before transitioning into case management. She also served as a workshop presenter, was a team leader, and spent time as center manager and data validation manger during approximately 10 years of region work.

Atsas came to DWD in 2017, helping with training and functionality issues while serving as an Indiana Career Connect business analyst. In 2022, she transitioned to the Performance and Data Integrity team with responsibilities that included data validation and the preparation and submission of files for federal reporting.

Her recent promotion is the latest step in what has proven to be an exciting career for Atsas.

"I'll now be in more of a leadership position," she said. "I'm currently working on things like succession planning and the realignment of roles and responsibilities. However, I like that I'm still part of a system that helps people. I feel very passionate about the customers we serve. I also love the fact that every day, I have to use analytical and critical thinking skills."

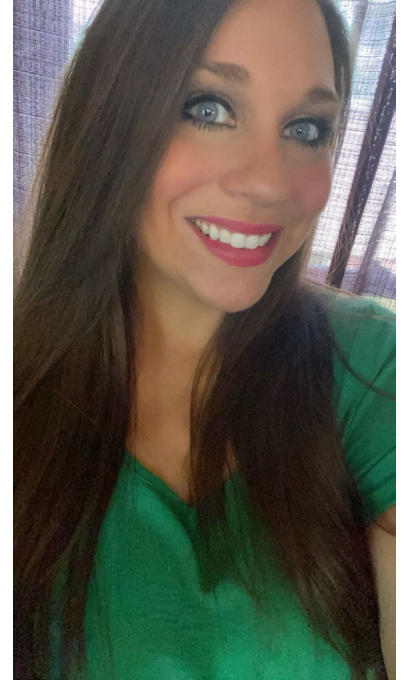
Atsas has high expectations for herself and DWD.

"I would like to continue working on making sure we have the best data in the system. In fact, I want us to be one of the best performing states in the nation."

Allison Bertl, DWD's Associate Chief of Workforce Operations, thinks Atsas is perfect for her new job.

"Missy's drive for excellence and passion for helping others combined with her many years of experience analyzing data in MIS, and partnering with local areas to ensure DWD's performance outcomes are accurately reported, have prepared her for this new role," Bertyl said. "We're looking forward to Missy's leadership and all of the innovation that she will continue to bring."

In her spare time, Atsas enjoys reading, spending time at a library and watching her six children participate in various athletics.



2024-25 SECC Campaign Calendar

Charity Fair - Thursday, Sept. 12 | 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Robert D. Orr Plaza

Come learn about different 501(c)(3) organizations from around Indiana during the Charity Fair, which will run alongside the Statehouse Market

Paddle Battle - Friday, Sept. 13 | 11:30 a.m. | Indianapolis Canal

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the winning team's 501(c)(3) charity of choice.

Cornhole Tournament - Thursday, Sept. 19 | 11:30 a.m. | Robert D. Orr Plaza

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's charity of choice, Hoosier Burn Camp.

3-on-3 Basketball - Thursday, Sept. 26 & Thursday, Oct. 3 | 10:30 a.m. | Robert D. Orr Plaza

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance's charity of choice, the Pacers Foundation.

Tug-of-War - Wednesday, Oct. 9 | 11 a.m. | Washington Street Parking Garage

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles' charity of choice, Riley Children's Foundation.

Silent Auction - Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. - Thursday, Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. | Virtual

Proceeds will be donated to the Indiana State Personnel Department's charity of choice, A Kid Again.

Pickleball - Tuesday, Oct. 22, Wednesday, Oct. 23, & Thursday, Oct. 24 | noon - 1 p.m. each day | Washington Street Parking Garage

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the Indiana Department of Administration's charity of choice, the Boys and Girls Club of Indiana.

Lip Sync Battle - Live event: Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m. | Virtual voting closes Friday, Nov. 1 at noon

Proceeds from voting will be donated to the Indiana Department of Correction's charity of choice, CPAFI.

Trivia - Thursday, Nov. 7 | noon | Virtual

Proceeds from participants will be donated to the Indiana Department of Natural Resource's 501(c)(3) charity of choice, Indiana Land Protection Alliance.

Watch for information about DWD's 2025 SECC charity and fundraising activities (COMING SOON)!



The next edition of *DWD INSider* will be distributed **October 8, 2024**.

The content/photo submission deadline for that edition will be **September 30, 2024**.

Please forward all newsletter contributions to Greg Seiter - jseiter@dwd.in.gov.

Submit Your Recipes for the DWD Cookbook



Are you a master chef in the making? Do you have a secret family recipe that's too good not to share?

We're excited to announce the creation of the DWD E-Cookbook, and we need your help to make it a success!

We're calling on all DWD employees to submit their favorite recipes for appetizers, entrees, snacks, desserts, and more! This is your chance to showcase your culinary skills and contribute to a mouthwatering collection of DWD's finest recipes.

Please use the following link to submit your recipes - <https://forms.gle/h4Qi1hLSrbFEAfFLA>

The submission deadline is September 20.

All contributed recipes will be compiled into a virtual cookbook that employees can save/download and will be available around Thanksgiving.

Legal Division Enjoys Experiential Learning Experience



The legal team recently participated in an outreach activity for the Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers Program (MSFW), part of WIOA--Wagner Peyser. The group visited Woody Warehouse Nursery August 15.

Program director Cynthia Hernandez facilitated the visit. Attendees enjoyed a MSFW presentation and a check in with workers. DWD's legal team also had an interesting conversation with one of the owners as she explained how workers come here and the important role they play in her business. Additionally, the group discussed the economic and human side of MSFW and how it is vital for the survival of businesses.

DWD New Hires, Promotions, and Transfers

Name	Position	Type
Maria Perez	Program Coordinator	New Hire
Luke MacGregor	Graphic Designer	New Hire
Stephen Griebel	ALJ	New Hire
Ernesto Rivas	Local Veterans Emp Rep	New Hire
Yanjun Duan Wang	Budget Analyst	Transfer
Nicholas Widlowski	Budget Analyst	Promotion
Patricia Blazek	Local Veterans Emp Rep	Transfer
Jennifer McNelly	Program Director	Promotion
David Phillips	Program Director	Promotion
Seth Soja	Department Director	New Hire
David Rogers	State Program Director	Promotion
Aaron Schroeder	Program Director	Promotion
Antionette Chatman	Program Specialist	Transfer
Aaron Collins	Program Specialist	Promotion
Traci Ewert	Program Specialist	Promotion
Schuyler Esau	Program Director	Promotion
Terri Banks	Project Manager	Transfer

2025 State Holiday Schedule

The following is a list of the 2025 state holidays. The schedule is also available for download on the Indiana State Personnel Department website: www.in.gov/spd/benefits/state-holidays.

New Year’s Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 20, 2025

Good Friday: Friday, April 18, 2025

Memorial Day: Monday, May 26, 2025

Independence Day: Friday, July 4, 2025

Labor Day: Monday, September 1, 2025

Columbus Day: Monday, October 13, 2025

Veterans Day: Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 27, 2025

Lincoln's Birthday: Friday, November 28, 2025

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25, 2025

Washington's Birthday: Friday, December 26, 2025

Region 1

Dabney Featured on Roadtrip Nation

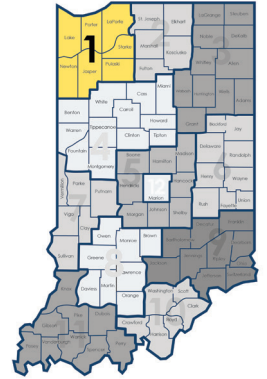
Submitted by Jennifer Jackson-Outlaw and Ami Reese

Daniel Dabney, Center of Workforce Innovation's marketing intern and brand ambassador for the youth division of WorkOne Northwest Indiana, is featured on the newest episodes of Roadtrip Nation on PBS.

The producers of Roadtrip Nation understand what it's like for young people to feel lost. That's why they place a few young adults in an RV to crisscross their



state, getting advice from people who have found fulfilling work. The goal is for their stories to help guide other young people toward work they care about, too. His mentors at CWI and WorkOne urged Dabney to apply for the opportunity.



Dabney was one of three Hoosiers selected to explore what the state of Indiana has to offer. As a 2022 JAG graduate who joined WorkOne Gary as a Youth Engagement Specialist during Fall 2022, he has a mature understanding of the value of career assessments and the exploration of career paths.

From education and health care to manufacturing and agriculture, Dabney and his fellow "road trippers" are shown discovering a diverse range of career paths available in the Crossroads of America throughout their

adventures on the show. As a Gary, Indiana native helping shape the future of workforce development in Northwest Indiana, Dabney is seen leading the RV to Region 1 while showcasing a community Boys & Girls Club where he worked as a Youth Development Professional. The group also visits an urban garden that has helped feed Dabney's family.

"Daniel's story exemplifies the spirit of exploration and growth that CWI embodies, inspiring young people to navigate their career paths with purpose and determination," said Dominique Smiley, Director of Engagement for CWI.

"I learned that there is no right way to build a career and that there are actually endless unique paths any person can take forward," Dabney said.

Dabney continues to develop marketing and content creator skills while assisting in outreach to young people. He is launching NextGen Gaming Group in September, inviting youth into WorkOne Gary for gaming, networking and career exploration.

[Click here to view scenes from Roadtrip Nation featuring Dabney.](#)

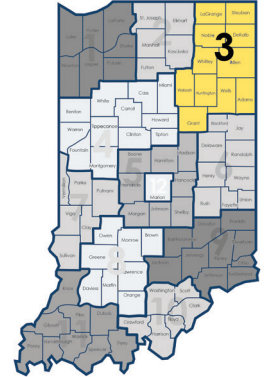


Region 3

WorkOne Northeast Co-Hosts Job Fair

Submitted by Rick Farrant

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, R-IN, in conjunction with Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) and WorkOne Northeast, hosted a job fair Aug. 14 at the university.



U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, R-IN, and Edmond O'Neal, president and CEO of Northeast Indiana Works.

Sixty employers with a total of 1,818 jobs participated. More than 200 jobseekers turned out. The employers spanned a variety of industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, government, finance, law enforcement, and transportation.

The annual job fair is one of the largest in northeast Indiana.

Banks attended the job fair, as did Northeast Indiana Works President and CEO Edmond O'Neal and Sean Ryan, director of the Office of Engagement at PFW.

WorkOne Northeast representatives were also on hand to assist people with resume

development, job interview techniques, and job search guidance.

Many employers reported finding promising candidates at the fair and the consensus of employers was that the event was a success.



“Although the job market in northeast Indiana has cooled somewhat, there are still plenty of open positions,” said Rick Farrant, director of communications for Northeast Indiana Works, which oversees the region’s 11 WorkOne career centers.

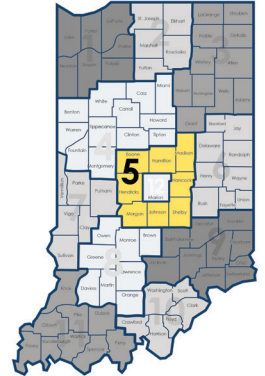
A recent Northeast Indiana Works online survey of employers drew 48 respondents and indicated that nearly 60 percent intend to increase their workforces in the next year. Only one expected to decrease their workforce.

Region 5

Registered Apprenticeship Program

Submitted by Pat Griffin

The Region 5 Workforce Board is the sponsor of a Department of Labor (DOL) approved Registered Apprenticeship Program for the occupation of Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).



Three individuals have completed the apprenticeship program and received their Journeyman Certificate. A celebration was held July 31 at Northview Health and Living in Anderson to honor Cali Humphries for her Apprenticeship completion.



From left to right: Northview Health and Living Executive Director Beth Harpe, Lance Ratliff, Cali Humphries and Jill Coffey

Beth Harpe, Executive Director, honored Humphries for her dedication and the passion and caring she has for her residents. Lance Ratliff, Executive Director for the Region 5 Workforce Board and CNA Apprenticeship sponsor, presented Humphries with a certificate of achievement and recognized her accomplishment.

Humphries graduated from Alexandra High School after completing her CNA pathways program and earning her CNA certification through Ivy Tech and the Indiana Department of Health. She then entered the Apprenticeship program.

Humphries went on to study at Huntington College for one year before returning home and enrolling in the Summit Salon Academy where she earned her esthetician license. All the while, she continued to work at Northview on weekends and after classes.

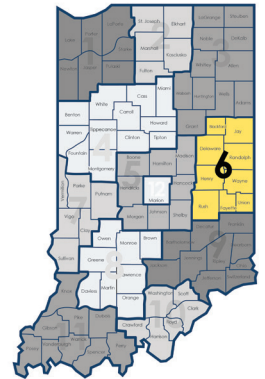
Humphries, who reached 2,000 hours in June, has been with Northview as a CNA since May 2021. She has reportedly impressed supervisors, peers and residents with a positive attitude and a willingness to help wherever needed.

We were joined by her family, staff, residents and the new cohort of CNA Apprentices to celebrate Humphries' achievements. Jill Coffey serves as a Region 5 Work Based Learning Coordinator who focuses on providing assistance to employers to develop and/or to expand DOL Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and to assist high schools with developing pre-apprenticeship programs which articulate to RAPs.

Region 6

Muncie YouthBuild's 4th Cohort Graduates

Submitted by Stephanie Clawson



Eastern Indiana Works marked the accomplishments of the 5th cohort of Muncie YouthBuild graduates August 21, 2024. These graduates have demonstrated significant growth through their dedication to the program.

Muncie YouthBuild provides those ages 16-24 the opportunity to earn their High School Equivalency in collaboration with the Muncie Area Career Center. They also acquire hands-on experience in renovating low-income housing through ecoREHAB's STEP construction training program. Moreover, participants attend Ivy Tech classes to achieve their NCCER, a construction industry-recognized certification, and take part in leadership development sessions with the Shafter Leadership Academy.

The event brought together partners, graduates, families, friends, and supporters to celebrate the accomplishments and advancements of our graduates. We wish them all the best as they embark on their future educational or career pursuits!



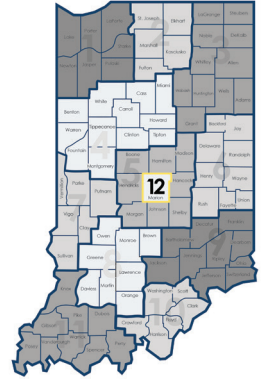
Region 12

JAG Program Expansion

Submitted by Austin Jenness

EmployIndy is excited to announce that Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) in Indy will be expanding this Fall, including new programs at two Marion County high schools and six Marion County middle schools.

“EmployIndy is excited to expand JAG Indy’s reach throughout Marion County, providing career-connected learning opportunities for more students in our region,” said Marie Mackintosh, President and CEO of EmployIndy. “The experiences and skills gained through JAG play a critical part in our young people making informed career choices after high school.”



The program’s expansion is a result of the continued success in achieving outcomes for students. JAG Indy recently achieved the National 6 of 6 award for both Multi-Year and Alternative Education programs. This award is achieved by meeting six graduation, further education, and employment standards set by the national organization. Having achieved this designation for the

9th year running, JAG Indy’s multi-year programs boasted a 98% graduation rate as well as a 75% full-time positive outcome rate, with the latter highlighting the percentage of students that entered full-time employment and/or further education.

Check out the full announcement and learn how to get involved at: <https://employindy.org/employindy-jag-indy-announce-expansion-and-national-award-achievement>.