



# What's Happening News

September 20, 2016

## **WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act):**

MERS Goodwill Industries were awarded the WIOA Youth contract and the WIOA Staffing contract.

## **Manufacturing Days:**

- Workforce Development Board Partners and Mineral Area College to Host Manufacturing Day, October 7, 2016.
- Workforce Development Board Partners and Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center to Host Manufacturing Day, October 11, 2016.

This is a program designed to expand knowledge of manufacturing and improve public perception of manufacturing career opportunities. For more information go to [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com)

## **Governor's Conference:**

I attended the Governor's Conference September 7-9 in Kansas City and participated on a discussion panel titled "Innovative Workforce Wave Heading Your Way". Each panelists' walked through the new initiative as well as provided insight into what is expected of local workforce development partners to strengthen the state's labor force and compete in the next-generation economy.

## **SPYC and Summer Jobs:**

We have 27 slots available for SPYC, with over half filled. As we are nearing the deadline for enrollments in the SPYC program, staff are working to fill the final available slots. Several others are in the process of pre-employment screening and enrollment, anxious to begin working at the state parks and historic sites in our region. Bollinger Mill had 1 slot available, which was filled and the youth completed his hours and was not only hired by the park but also entered post-secondary employment. Felix Valle had 5 available slots, of which four have been filled. One youth completed her hours and entered post-secondary education, one returned to high school, and two are nearing their contracted hours. Hawn State Park had 6 available slots, 4 have been filled. Hunter Dawson had 1 available slot, which has been filled. Missouri Mines had 2 available slots, both were filled and the youth have almost completed their hours. St. Francois State Park had 2 available slots; both were filled and one youth has entered post-secondary education. St. Joe State Park had 4 available slots, with all four filled. One youth is nearing the end of her contracted hours, while two others still have several weeks to work. Trail of Tears had five available slots, two have been filled. One young lady moved out of state with her family, and one continues working to complete her hours.

For Summer Jobs we had 120 slots available, and staff worked vigorously to screen youth who came through the portal to be paired with employers whom were interested in participating in the program. 71 young adults were placed with local employers to gain employment skills, build their work

history, and explore career options while enhancing their soft skills as well as learning financial and budgeting skills as they begin earning paychecks. Of those placed, several have completed and returned to high school or post-secondary education, some found employment linked to their Summer Jobs work experience, and some have been hired by the Summer Jobs employer!

### **WIOA Youth Program Updates-August 2016:**

#### **Bollinger County – Sara Vise**

Bollinger County has 6 enrollments for August, with 1 active and 5 young adults in follow-up. As we work with partnering agencies and the local schools we have the opportunity to substantially increase our enrollments in Bollinger County. The AEL classes held in the MERS/Goodwill office site have proved to have a positive effect in our area. Young adults as well as older adults are a part of this program.

In the coming months attention will be given to building a strong case load in Bollinger County, developing jobs for our young adults in the county and continuing to provide work experience and job readiness.

Total Enrolled: 1

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 5

#### **Cape County – Sherri Long**

Cape County currently has 17 enrollments, 14 are active and 3 are in follow up. There were 0 exits and 0 enrollments for the month of August.

Working with the youth in Cape County this month has been a good experience. The Young Adults enrolled in the WIOA Youth Program are working towards career paths that will lead to a successful future. One young lady is attending Metro Business College. She is excited to be studying Business Administration. We are working together to create a work experience to help her with training and to also assist her with extra needed income while she is attending school. Another young lady has found full-time employment. She has completed her CNA training and is waiting on her test date to take her Certification test. She was excited to tell me that her new work badge shows CNA. Quite an accomplishment! Other young adults are just beginning the journey for their future. They have benefited from the program training and continued support through case management.

Total Enrolled: 14

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 3

#### **Dunklin County – Dekeshia Wade**

Dunklin currently has 13 enrollments. We have 11 active and 2 in follow-up. We have 3 new enrollments and 1 exit for the month of August. We currently have 3 young adults in a work experience program. We have one very happy young lady, who had a career path of working for a screen printing company. We were able to partner with a local screen printing company in a work experience to provide training. She is learning how to design logos to be placed on different items such as shoes, and clothing for local businesses and schools. This has been a great experience and the young lady has the opportunity to be hired with the company. We also have 1 young adult working in a clothing store to learn several job skills for future employment. This young person is working as a store/stock clerk assisting with hanging items, stocking shelves, and assisting customers. Another young lady is working as an office assistant and is learning how to file, answer phone calls, and how

to do computer work. We are very excited these young people have the opportunity to learn more about their career choices and to learn the skills they need to become successful.

Educational goals are on the rise in Dunklin County! 3 youth signed up to take their HiSet at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Two of the young people passed the complete HiSet test and have earned their HSE certification. We are happy to announce 1 youth brought her TABE scores up in Math and is scheduled to take her HiSet exam on September 24, 2016 at Three Rivers Community College in Malden, Mo. 3 clients are currently enrolled in the AEL classes at the Southeast Missouri State University in Kennett, Mo and are attending class as scheduled. These young adults have taken the initiative to go above and beyond on getting their HSE Certificate.

Dunklin County WIOA Youth Program continues to grow.

Total Enrolled: 11

Enrolled This Month: 3

Total Exits: 1

Total in Follow-Up: 2

### **Iron County – Angel Pickens**

Iron County has 2 enrollments, 1 active youth and 1 youth in follow up. We have 0 new enrollments and 0 exits for the month of August. We are working with the 1 active, employed youth to begin attending AEL classes. He has taken his TABE test and is working on getting a schedule he can balance to be able to attend night classes. We continue to attend meetings to share information about the WIOA Youth Program with various community members and agencies. This month we attended the Mineral Area College freshman orientation. We were able to hand out information and answer questions for youth that may be candidates for our program. Due to community outreach, referrals and promotion of the youth program we are currently working with 6 young adults for possible enrollment in the youth program within the next few months. We are continuing to make contacts in the area to develop new work experience sites for our youth. This month we met with the owner of Arcadia Academy and Arnez Trucking. Both of these companies have several different work experience opportunities for our youth and both are eager to work with our program. Our efforts through letters, home visits, phone calls and other opportunities have continued to be effective in keeping youth engaged and excited about their future Career Pathways.

Total Enrolled: 1

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-Up: 1

### **Madison County – Angel Pickens**

Madison County has 6 enrollments, 4 active and 2 in follow up. We have 0 new enrollments and 0 exits for the month of August. Currently we have 2 youth attending AEL classes. We have 1 youth that completed Scholars@Work this month. She has passed the Language and Social Studies section of the HSE and has scheduled her Science portion for Sept. 17th. Her goal is to have her HSE completed by November. We have 3 active youth employed and gaining work experience in the community. We continue to attend meetings to share information about the WIOA Youth Program with various community members and agencies. This month we attended the Mineral Area College freshman orientation. We were able to hand out information and answer questions for youth that may be candidates for our program. Due to community outreach, referrals and promotions of the youth program we are currently working with 2 young adults that should be enrolled in the youth program next month. Our efforts through letters, home visits, phone calls and other opportunities have continued to be effective in keeping youth engaged and excited about their future Career Pathways.

Total Enrolled: 4

Enrolled This Month: 0  
Total Exited: 0  
Total in Follow-up: 2

### **Mississippi County – James Hollywood**

Mississippi County Youth Program has seven actively enrolled youth in the WIOA Youth Program and zero youth in follow up. We continue to work with resources as we grow our enrollments and build a strong WIOA Youth Program in the county. Working with Susanna Wesley and Juvenile Justice has presented new referrals for the month of August.

The Summer Jobs program has been a successful referral program to the WIOA Youth program. Young employees enrolled in the Summer Jobs program have been referred for eligibility determination and enrollment into the WIOA Youth program. The opportunity to partner with Susanna Wesley has been successful in placements for the SJ program. The SJ program has also generated job development in the Agriculture and Farming sector in Mississippi County as well as other counties in our region.

Total Enrolled: 7  
Enrolled This Month: 0  
Total Exited: 0

### **New Madrid County – James Hollywood**

New Madrid County has 16 enrollments; 13 active and 3 youth in follow-up. We have 1 new enrollment during the month of August.

Two young adults began work experience. One youth was employed at DAEOC Early Head Start to take advantage of her newly acquired CDS certification. A second young adult was placed in training at Trusted-Hands, Inc. We have two young adults in the last weeks of their Summer Jobs employment at the City of Lilbourn. We have a spotlight client of the month. He was able to apply what he learned from attending the Financial Literacy class and saved enough money to purchase a vehicle.

Our focus for the upcoming month will be to remediate and schedule work keys testing, as well as continue enrollments in the WIOA Youth Program.

Total Enrolled: 13  
Enrolled This Month: 1  
Total Exited: 0  
Total In Follow-Up: 3

### **Pemiscot County – Valerie Smith**

Pemiscot County currently has 15 enrollments. We have 12 active and 3 in follow-up. We have 0 new enrollments and 0 exits for the month of August. Currently 3 are actively participating in the Work Experience Program. They have all been doing a wonderful job learning the skills set forth in their Work Experience agreements and are gaining valuable job skills they will be able to use in future employment endeavors. We have met with other young adults, who are interested in the WIOA Youth Program.

During the month of August, 1 client has gained her HSE certification. This client has been working very hard over the last several months to raise her TABE scores so she could retake her test. She went to Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. on August 16, 2016 and passed the Mathematics, Social Studies, and Language Arts-Reading sections of the HiSet exam. This Young Lady is in the process of enrolling in college for the spring semester. We are working with 1 young person who is actively participating in AEL classes at Three Rivers Community College in Caruthersville, MO and 3 others actively participating in online AEL classes. They are working towards reaching their educational goals.

The WIOA Youth Program and the Kennett Career Center have partnered to enroll 2 young ladies in CNA training. Their classes are going great and they will begin working on their clinicals this week. Both are applying for jobs at NHC in Kennett, MO. where they will be doing their clinicals and will gain full time employment. 4 youth currently have full time jobs, and several other Pemiscot County Youth have applied for jobs this week and have interviews scheduled at various locations.

September is looking very promising for the Youth in Pemiscot County!

Total Enrolled: 12

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total In Follow-up: 3

### **Perry County – Stacy Snider**

Perry County Youth currently has 4 WIOA Youth active and 1 WIOA Youth in follow up. We have 1 youth who is currently working full time and 1 youth who is currently working on his HSE. We have 2 of the youth who have a High School Equivalency. We currently have 3 youth who are working on Workplace Readiness Skills.

We have 1 youth who has enrolled in the Paramedic Technician classes at Mineral Area College. We are currently working with a local Pharmacy to begin doing Work Experience so that our young man can start gaining job skills that will assist him in finding employment once he has completed his Pharmacy Technician Training. We are looking forward to the future success of this young man.

Total Enrolled: 4

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total In Follow-up: 1

### **Scott County – James Hollywood**

Scott County Youth Program has nine actively enrolled youth in the WIOA Youth Program and (6) six youth in follow up. To continue with our success story from last month, our young lady who was accepted to SEMO University is now a fully involved Freshman. She is already settled in and having a great first-year experience. She has joined a couple clubs and living on campus allows her to be a part of everything.

Work Readiness Certification and Work Experience go hand in hand when assisting Young Adults in reaching their Career Goals. We also partner with other resources in our region to help build their career path. Partnering with the Job Center allows the customer to complete NCRC Work Keys certification. They also have the opportunity to attend Step up To Leadership Workshops through DAEOC. Additional workshops are offered and utilized to assist customers with soft skills. We are building an Employer base in Scott County to partner with for training in diverse employment fields with placement in WIOA Work Experience.

The Summer Jobs Program continues throughout the months of August and September. We are working in both programs to create enrollments in the WIOA Youth Program. We look forward to a great September.

Total Enrolled: 9

Enrolled This Month: 0

Total Exited: 0

Total In Follow-up: 6

### **St. Francois County – Angel Pickens**

St. Francois County has 13 enrollments, 11 active and 3 in follow-up. We have 2 new enrollments and 0 exits for the month of August.

Currently we have 8 youth employed, gaining work experience. We have 1 youth that started a Work Experience at Rocky Creek Ranch this month. We have 1 youth that started the Scholars @ Work program this month. We have 3 youth enrolled in AEL classes, making great progress towards obtaining their HSE's. We have 1 Youth that is ready to take his HiSet exam, and is scheduled to take the exam on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. We have 1 more youth that should be ready to take her HiSet exam within the next two months. We continue to attend meetings to share information about the WIOA Youth Program with various community members and agencies. This month we attended the Mineral Area College freshman orientation. We were able to hand out information and answer questions for youth that may be candidates for our program. We were also able to give information to individuals that may qualify for assistance from the Missouri Job Center. Due to the convenience of the Youth office being located in the Park Hills Job Center we are able to speak with many young adults that are potential candidates for the youth program. Due to community outreach, referrals and promotions of the youth program we are currently working with 11 young adults for possible enrollment in the youth program within the next 2 months. We are continuing to make contacts in the area to develop new work experience sites for our youth. This month we met with Shared blessings Homeless Shelter and Renaissance Horse Rescue Ranch. Both of these sites are not for profit organizations. Both have expressed interest in helping our youth with work experience opportunities and possible new referrals to our program. Our efforts through letters, home visits, phone calls and other opportunities have continued to be effective in keeping youth engaged and excited about their future Career Pathways.

Total Enrolled: 11

Enrolled This Month: 2

Total Exited: 0

Total in Follow-up: 3

### **Ste. Genevieve – Stacy Snider**

August has been a month of success and taking the next step in several youth's career paths. We currently have 13 Active youth and 5 youth in Follow up. We had 1 youth exit this month with employment, no longer Basic Skills Deficient, and has earned his High School Equivalency. 11 of our 13 Active youth have earned their High School Equivalency or have earned their High School Diploma. We currently have 5 youth in follow up or active who are working full time. We have 9 youth active or in follow up who are working part time. We had 1 Scholar @ Work earn his High School Equivalency and 1 youth earn her High School Equivalency. We had 2 youth who now have a driver's license and 1 youth who was able to use his incentive bonus to assist him in buying a car which has enabled him to have transportation for employment. He now has full time employment at TG Missouri. We continue to have youth participating in the Summer Jobs program and the SPYC program. We had 1 youth who has completed his hours at Felix Valle State Historical Site and was hired as a seasonal worker. We had 1 youth who also completed his hours at Felix Valle State Historical Site and has enrolled in the WIOA Adult program and was accepted into the Police Academy at Mineral Area College and has begun classes there. He will continue to attend college to be a Highway Patrolman and hopes in the future to work for the Department of Natural Resources as a Conservationist. We had 1 youth who completed his Summer Job hours at PIVA Windows and has been hired full time.

We have had 1 youth who increased in Math from performance level 4 to a performance level 6. We had 1 youth who increased in Language from performance level 4 to a performance level 6. We had 1 youth who increased in Reading from performance level 4 to a performance level 6. We currently have 2 Scholars @ Work. We have 1 new Scholar @ Work and 1 new WIOA Youth enrollment. We currently have 4 youth who have recently began High School Equivalency classes and are working towards enrollment into the WIOA Youth program and want to be part of the Scholars@Work program. We currently have 5 adults in the community who are participating in the High School Equivalency Classes.

We attended the Freshman Orientation at Mineral Area College this month and were able to provide information and pamphlets to several families about the WIOA Youth and Adult programs. A training representative from the Division of Workforce Development came to visit the office this month and was able to see how the WIOA Youth program operates on a day to day basis.

We are looking forward to a great September!

Total Enrolled: 13

Enrolled This Month: 1

Total Exited: 1

Total in Follow-up: 5

### **Stoddard County – Sara Vise**

Stoddard County Youth Program has 7 actively enrolled young adults in the WIOA Youth Program with 3 new enrollments and 1 positive exit with 1 one youth in follow up. August was a great month for the young adults in Stoddard County. August has been filled with new youth anticipating great life-long changes. As they begin their journey in a different path, we will continue to assist them to overcome barriers in order to meet their goals for the future. We are in the process of getting youth ready to take the HiSet exam and applying for FAFSA. Assisting the young people we work with as they begin their steps to meet their goals is a very pleasant experience.

Work Readiness Classes are scheduled to begin soon for the young adults, assisting them with career choices and to learn soft skills for the workplace. We had the opportunity to network at the local Health Fair and made connections to grow new partners for employment and training, as well as resources to assist the young adults we work with. This will assist with the success of the WIOA Work Experience for our Young Adults to allow them the opportunity for training in their field of choice following their Career Pathway.

Total Enrolled: 7

Enrolled This Month: 3

Total Exited: 1

**“Our Vision: A High Quality Standard of Life for Our Region”**

**“Our Mission: To Promote a State of Economic Well-Being by Helping to Create a Skilled, Diverse, Motivated, and Adaptable Work Force”**

The Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.