



July 3, 2018



Dear Workforce Partners and Stakeholders,

With two major dislocations this year, 600 workers affected by the closing of JCPenney's warehouse/logistics and call center operations, and 2,200 workers affected by the closing of Boston Store, our Rapid Response staff has been working non-stop to provide services and resources to all of the affected workers, and connect them to new employment opportunities, including holding information sessions, setting up Transition Centers, and coordinating job fairs. Our staff will continue to connect these workers to training and employment opportunities throughout the years thanks to Rapid Response grants received from the Department of Workforce Development.

A big congratulations goes out to the nine individuals who graduated from a specialized training program on June 6th at WRTP/BIG STEP! Employ Milwaukee's Business Services Team partnered with WRTP to develop a specialized training program for Leonardo DRS Technologies. Nine people completed the training with a guaranteed position at DRS and starting wage of \$18.58 per hour.

As the Milwaukee business community strengthens our brand as a "[Tech Hub](#)," we welcomed a new TechHire class this month. Sixteen individuals will be acquiring marketable IT certifications during 16-weeks of training provided by MATC. The training focuses on IT-related occupations such as Network Security, Computer Systems Analysts, Web Developers, Applications Software Developers, Systems Software Developers, and Computer User Support Specialists. [Click here for more on TechHire.](#)

The 2018 Earn & Learn and summer youth employment programs are in full swing. Approximately 900 Earn & Learn students started their first day of work on Monday, June 25th at more than 70 work sites across Milwaukee County. We encourage all of the young people to make the most of their Earn & Learn experience, and gain skills they can use throughout their lifetime of employment.

This column is bittersweet as it is my last as President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee. I will be leaving Milwaukee for a new endeavor in Pittsburgh, as the CEO of Partner4Work, the Workforce Development Board for the Pittsburgh Area. The last four years at Employ Milwaukee have been a whirlwind. I'm incredibly proud of all of the great work we've accomplished as a team. I would like to say to everyone who has touched my life throughout the Milwaukee community, a heartfelt thank you. As much as I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life, Milwaukee will always be home.

New TechHire Class Begins

Sixteen TechHire Program participants began classes in June for 16-weeks of IT training through MATC. They'll earn 12 credit hours and industry-recognized certifications. Upon completion, they will be connected with employers with immediate openings in IT occupations.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Partner Feature

Franklin Business Park Consortium Partners with Employ Milwaukee on First-Time Job Fair

On Tuesday, April 10, the Franklin Business Park Consortium (FBPC) sponsored a job fair at Franklin High School for a dozen member companies to recruit job seekers to fill immediate openings, primarily in manufacturing and skilled trade jobs. Employ Milwaukee was a key partner in this



inaugural event assisting with logistics and recruitment of job seekers.

"I was grateful for the support provided by Employ Milwaukee and Job Service and impressed with the depth of their experience," said Dave Dull, President of Allis Roller, and FBPC chair. "We had great turnout and a successful event. This first-time job fair was in response to a serious workforce need in our business park. Companies need good employees, and there are still many members of our community looking for a new or better job. The job fair was a win-win for the City of Franklin."

The event drew 92 job seekers, many of whom interviewed on the spot with companies such as Kronos, Allis-Roller, Carma Laboratories, and Quad Packaging, to fill immediate job openings. For more information about the Franklin Business Park Consortium and its member companies, visit franklinbusinessparkconsortium.com.

Employ Milwaukee's Business Services Team provides a range of services, including recruitment and hiring events and identifying qualified job seekers. For more information, email Biz.Services@employmilwaukee.org.

Dave Dull, President of Allis Roller, was featured on FOX6 Wake-Up News:

<http://fox6now.com/2018/04/06/theres-over-100-openings-job-fair-looks-to-fill-positions-at-franklin-business-park/>

Company Feature

On-The-Job Training Provides Business Solution for General Mills



Deangelo Marie is working at General Mills through On-The-Job Training

General Mills, a company celebrating 150 years of "making food people love." With its corporate offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota, General Mills has grown to reach a wide array of communities over the years including Milwaukee, housing a production facility in the City of Milwaukee, located at South 6th Street and Layton Avenue.

Recently, they hired Deangelo Marie as a Processing Operator at a starting wage of \$15.83 per hour. Deangelo is a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Program participant and is working at General Mills through Employ Milwaukee's On-The-Job Training. On-The-Job Training is one of many

business solutions Employ Milwaukee offers through its Business Services Department. On-The-Job Training helps offset the cost related to the loss of production while training a new hire.

The Employ Milwaukee team is excited to be working with General Mills giving job seekers the opportunity to begin and grow a career with a great company.

"In this case, we found a job seeker who is a great fit for General Mills, but needs support in developing his skillset," said Janelle Gaines, General Mills Human Resource Business Associate. "The On-The-Job Training solution is valuable for us because it allows us to train here at our plant where trainees can learn hands-on from our staff."

For more information about business solutions offered by Employ Milwaukee, call (414) 270-1728 or email Biz.Services@employmilwaukee.org.

Staff Feature

Ricardo Ybarra, Business Services Integration Manager

Ricardo Ybarra manages the Dislocated Worker Program and Rapid Response efforts at Employ Milwaukee. His most recent work is focusing on the JCPenney and Bon-Ton company's dislocations of 600 and 2,200 employees respectively. He has more than 25 years of workforce experience, including previously working at MAXIMUS, Inc. and the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships Program administered by Georgetown University.



He is well-versed in developing a supportive, collaborative relationship with the employers and the employees to make their transition into a new job or career a smooth one. Ricardo, along with the help of his team, use Rapid Response resources tailored to specific situations during mass layoffs to support the dislocated workers. Efforts include holding information sessions, setting up Transition Centers, and coordinating job fairs for the dislocated workers to provide support for individuals who qualify for services. Additionally, connecting the unemployed workers with Career Planners to identify the needs of the individual and help them establish future career goals, as well as assist in job placement or job advancement.

"This work is a collaborative enterprise with a super dedicated team supporting us," said Ybarra. He specifically praises, "The Business Services and Program Teams who give copious amounts of their time to help put together folders and making sure all the information is correct and accurate for the program to succeed." Employ Milwaukee and its Business Services Team, through its employer relationships, is essential to connecting dislocated workers to new career opportunities.

Ricardo was born in Alpine, Texas and moved to Wisconsin in high school with his family. Outside of work he enjoys traveling the country and the world with his family and attending his children's music and art performances.

Employ Milwaukee News

Employ Milwaukee Provides Support and Resources to Dislocated JCPenney and Bon-Ton Workers

Following the announcements earlier this year JCPenney would be laying off 600 employees and Bon-Ton/Boston Store would be laying off 2,200, Employ Milwaukee immediately began providing Rapid Response services through its Dislocated Worker Program to serve those who have been impacted by these events and to connect individuals to services and resources and new employment opportunities.



Job Fair at Bon-Ton Corporate Office May 11, 2018

Workers for both companies have attended **information sessions**, participated in **Transition Center Sessions**, with **Mobile Lab Services**, and met with employers seeking workers with their skill sets at **job fairs**.

BON-TON / BOSTON STORE DISLOCATION

- **482** workers served through Dislocated Worker/UI/Job Service Informational Sessions
- **405** Transition Center visits by workers
- **150+** workers attended a job fair with a dozen hiring employers

JCPENNEY DISLOCATION

- **148** workers served through Dislocated Worker/UI/Job Service Informational Sessions
- **184** Transition Center visits by workers
- **500+** workers attended a job fair with 72 hiring employers

Employ Milwaukee Develops Specialized Training for Leonardo DRS Technologies

Through Employ Milwaukee's Short-Term Training, nine people were trained in Entry Level Manufacturing Skills



Mayor Barrett congratulations ELMS graduates on their accomplishment.

(ELMS) and hired immediately by Leonardo DRS Technologies at a starting wage of \$18.58 per hour. The training was developed by Employ Milwaukee in partnership with WRTP/BIG STEP; Leonardo DRS Technologies helped design the curriculum for the four-week training program. The graduates earned a Manufacturing Skill

Standards Council (MSSC) safety certification and were presented with certificates of completion at a graduation ceremony at WRTP/BIG STEP on Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Ralph Simpson, the Senior Manager of Operations at Leonardo DRS Technologies, stated, "One of our most valuable resources is our employees who work to produce an essential product for the U.S. Navy and new employees play a key role in producing the products." To the graduates, "I ask that you continue to learn and stay positive as this is a great opportunity. The number of orders we have for our product will last for years and you have the potential to be very successful and retire from Leonardo DRS."

[Click Here for News Release](#)

Featured in the News



David Haynes, a member of the editorial team at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, recently featured the region's TechHire programs.

[Click here for article](#)

A proud partner of the  network

Employ Milwaukee | 414.270.1700 | [Website](#)



