



April 19, 2018



Dear Workforce Partners and Stakeholders,

It's once again time to start thinking about summer youth employment. On March 19th, we began accepting applications from young people for Mayor Barrett's Earn & Learn Summer Youth Employment Program. Each year, Earn & Learn provides opportunities for young people across our community to get connected to summer jobs, in many cases their first job. Last summer through community work experience, over 1,100 young people worked at 60 locations! The Earn & Learn program has been very successful in teaching young people valuable work skills and giving them a rewarding work experience while earning a paycheck.

If you know of a young person who would like to apply for Earn & Learn, they can do so until Saturday, April 28th. [Click here for more information.](#)

The National Association of Workforce Boards ([NAWB](#)) held their annual Forum 2018, March 24 - 27 in Washington D.C. This is a crucial event for workforce stakeholders across the country, billed as "a national conversation among change makers, leaders, and advocates." We are pleased to have had staff members present on innovative topics. Tracey Carey, Director of Fund Development and Strategic Initiatives, presented Midwest Urban Strategies: A laboratory for workforce innovation, highlighting our unique partnership with 11 DOL Region 5 urban workforce boards. And, Chantell Jewell, Reentry Services Manager, presented alongside national experts Erica Nelson, Policy Analyst, Council of State Governments, and Andre Bethea, Policy Advisor, US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, on the all-important topic of Partnering with Corrections to Promote Reentry and Employment.

On Thursday, March 29th a watershed event was held in Racine, the Wisconsin Valley Construction Resource Fair. This key event was hosted by the State of Wisconsin to provide information to individuals interested in connecting to careers in construction with the catalyst of the Foxconn development. Employ Milwaukee hosted three information sessions encouraging job seekers to learn more about career pathways in construction by attending the Resource Fair. Stay tuned. More to come!

The entire Employ Milwaukee staff sends a heartfelt congratulation to our longtime board member and friend, Thelma Sias, for receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Milwaukee Business Journal for promoting Diversity in Business.

Welcome spring.

Apply Now for Earn & Learn

The application period is now open to apply for Mayor Barrett's Earn & Learn Summer Youth Employment Program. All applicants must submit a pre-registration form online. Once completed, you will be prompted to complete registration by submitting the consent forms, proof of birth, income, social security card, and address with 7 days. Consent forms will be available online and at Employ Milwaukee, 2342 N. 27th Street, Milwaukee, 53210. All documents must be submitted to Employ Milwaukee no later than April 28, 2018 by 4:00 p.m.

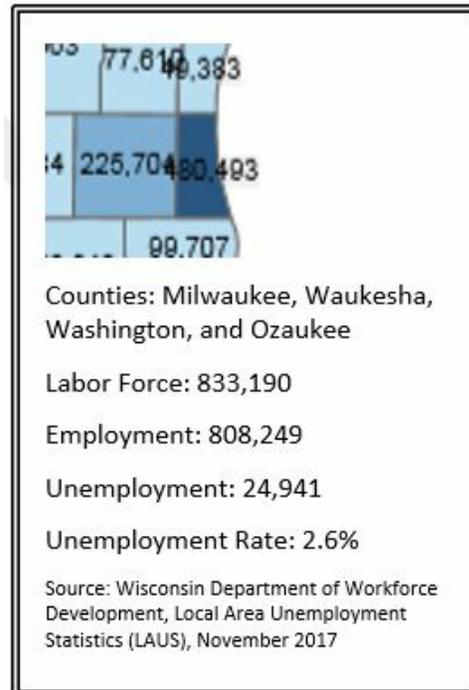


[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Partner Feature

Regional Workforce Alliance and *WOW MKE* Will Provide a Continual Stream of Workers Across Industry Sectors

Regional collaboration is critical to meet employer demand for workers. Employ Milwaukee partners with its adjacent workforce development boards (WDBs), Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington (WOW) and the Southeast WDBs, to foster economic development and high-growth opportunities across the regional economy. This longstanding association is the **Regional Workforce Alliance (RWA)**. The RWA pursues funding for joint ventures, communicates about regional issues and best practices, coordinates outreach to regional businesses, promotes employment in high demand industries and occupations, conducts regional planning, and responds to regionally disruptive events such as mass layoffs or the influx of new investment and jobs.



Recent data suggests a more intentional approach is needed to serve businesses in the four-county labor shed of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington. As of January 2018, this labor

shed has a combined labor force of 833,190 participants, with 808,249 currently employed and 24,941 currently unemployed and waiting for their next workforce opportunity. It also has an average unemployment rate of 2.6%, a historic low. All while the employer demand for skilled and qualified workers within many sectors throughout the labor shed is growing.

A new initiative, **WOW MKE**, will soon launch with the goal of providing a continual stream of workers to businesses across industry sectors. The Business Solutions teams from the Employ Milwaukee and WOW workforce development boards, along with network partners and sub-contractors, will work with employers to provide experienced and credentialed workers that can be quickly assimilated into middle skills or high demand occupations with minimal supports from the traditional workforce system. The WOW MKE solution will provide career laddering and wage progression opportunities for workers and expedited on-boarding of workers for employers.

Company Feature

Hyatt Regency Actively Cultivates a Hospitality Workforce



Thomas Wengelewski
Director of Human Resources
Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee

The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee is a premier lodging destination in the heart of downtown Milwaukee and a strong workforce partner, engaged in developing workforce solutions for the hospitality industry as whole. Their involvement in building a pipeline of hospitality workers includes hosting hiring events, serving on an Industry Advisory Board, and an their overall willingness to train people for positions within the company. The Hyatt has hosted and participated in multiple hiring events resulting in several new hires. Thomas Wengelewski, Director of Human Resources, says the hiring events are, "a great way to generate new leads and a great resource."

For just over a year, Wengelewski has served as a member of Employ Milwaukee's Hospitality Industry Advisory Board (IAB), something he enjoys. "It's been a rewarding experience. I appreciate the collaboration between other people in the industry and getting connected to active job seekers. The collaboration is a brain trust on how we can better develop our workforce and do better as whole. It's great to get feedback from colleagues and other people, all of us working together."

The Hospitality IAB members have hosted customized recruitment and hiring events at their respective properties. Each location offers a unique perspective and increased access for job seekers throughout Milwaukee County. Across all high growth industries, customized recruitment and hiring events have been very well received by businesses and job seekers alike. Employ

Milwaukee is on track to more than double participation from the previous program year. In the current program year, Employ Milwaukee has hosted more than 30 hiring events, with over 100 actively engaged employers, resulting in more than 1,000 job seekers being interviewed.

Regarding his collaboration with Employ Milwaukee overall, "I've told other people, what a great job Employ Milwaukee does. They are proactive in helping people learn and develop soft skills, getting their resumes together, and preparing them for the workforce. Employ Milwaukee is a great resource for a Hiring Manager and Human Resources Director," said Wengelewski. "At the end of the day, we want to help people find a career path. A path that allows them to move forward."



Hyatt representatives interview a job seeker at recent Hospitality Hiring Event hosted at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

Staff Feature

Cindy Anderson Manager, Compete Midwest, Milwaukee



Cindy manages Milwaukee's Compete Midwest grants, including the American Apprenticeship Initiative, TechHire, and America's Promise. She joined the Employ Milwaukee team six months ago. Previously, she worked for the State of Wisconsin's Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards where she created apprenticeships in IT, Healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.

Now as the manager of the Compete Midwest grants, she is responsible for moving forward metrics and deliverables, and making sure participants get trained and get jobs. She is passionate about connecting job seekers to high paying careers.

"The nice thing is these grants are adequately funded. A participant with few resources can get the same training as someone with means. These grants allow people to compete on a level playing field for family supporting jobs," said Anderson.

Employ Milwaukee works with workforce partners in St. Louis, MO and Detroit, MI to address the needs of businesses through the American Apprenticeship Initiative. The TechHire grant, in partnership with St. Louis, MO, offers a flexible training model, providing cohort-based training and other services such as career planning and supportive services, and innovative support for business, including On-the-Job Training, paid internships, and specialized services to incumbent workers. America's Promise in partnership with St. Louis, MO, Kansas City, MO, Cincinnati, OH, Gary, IN, Detroit, MI, and Minneapolis, MN, addresses worker shortages in 14 high growth occupations within four targeted H1-B Industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology, Finance and Healthcare. Through each city's workforce board in the seven urban epicenters across the Midwest, America's Promise is providing business outreach, training and placement activities.

Cindy has a Master's Degree in counseling and psychology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Employ Milwaukee News

Reentry Event Succeeds in Educating Providers

On March 5th, the Employ Milwaukee reentry team, in collaboration with Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM), hosted a reentry simulation event. The event was designed to give people who work with the reentry population an understanding the dynamics of those re-entering into the community and what that potentially entails.

People had an opportunity to experience what it's like to be an individual who is returning back to society after being incarcerated. The participants received a new identity and life story, and had to navigate through different scenarios such as visiting a Parole Officer, seeking assistance, and applying for benefits. It captured all of the trials and road blocks that individuals face. The group also heard from individuals who had their own experience and shared their stories.



"Our goal is to create an understanding for society-at-large what it is like to walk in the shoes of someone returning back to society after being incarcerated," said Shawna Lutzow, Madison-area Urban Ministry's Returning Prisoner Simulation Coordinator. "This event is a step toward bridging the gap between reentry individuals and the people and organizations they need to reintegrate back into society. We would like to thank Employ Milwaukee for being a great partner and hosting the event. We are optimistic this continued partnership will help build our region's workforce."

Recruitment Event Focuses on Careers in Construction

MADE IN WISCONSIN U.S.A.
 wisconnvalley.wi.gov

WISCONN VALLEY CONSTRUCTION RESOURCE FAIR

March 29, 2018
 1 – 4 PM

Racine Civic Centre Festival Hall
 5 Fifth Street, Racine, WI
Ample parking is available at the facility for this FREE event.

Take Steps to Launch a Rewarding Career in Construction

<p>Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Career Exploration ▶ Job Readiness/Skills Training ▶ Education Programs ▶ Apprenticeship Opportunities ▶ Reentry Workforce Services ▶ Veteran Services ▶ Vocational Rehabilitation 	<p>Free Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pre-apprenticeship construction training ▶ Entrepreneurship ▶ Jobs of the Future <p>Get Details wisconnvalley.wi.gov 414-438-4583</p>
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STATE OF WISCONSIN DWD DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT JOB CENTER WISCONSIN In partnership with the City and County of Racine, County, Racine County Economic Development Corporation and the Southeast Wisconsin Workforce Development Board.

DETR-16449-FIN-3/2018

The Wisconn Valley Construction Resource Fair opened the door for Wisconsinites to better prepare themselves for future job opportunities in construction, resulting from Foxconn's historic investment in Wisconsin. The event took place, March 29th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Trade associations, local education and training providers, workforce development partners and other organizations were onsite to help individuals explore construction

careers and find education and training opportunities. Additionally, M+W/ Gilbane and Foxconn representatives were in attendance. A variety of workshops were offered to help job seekers explore construction jobs of the future, pre-apprenticeship training programs, entrepreneur opportunities and more.

Featured in the News

The Milwaukee Business Journal

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