



April 11, 2017



Dear Workforce Partners and Stakeholders,

Through strategic collaboration, we have created innovative opportunities to build our region's workforce. Our Midwest Urban Strategies Group is a consortium of 11 urban workforce boards, from the 10 states that comprise the US Department of Labor's (DOL) Region V, including: Milwaukee, Minneapolis, MN, Gary, IN, Indianapolis, IN, Detroit, MI, St. Louis, MO, Cincinnati, OH, Columbus, OH, Cleveland, OH, Chicago, IL and Kansas City, MO. We have come together to develop regional workforce solutions. In March, we met in Chicago to discuss next steps and begin planning for the future. We are excited that this groundbreaking partnership continues to thrive. The strong collaboration and vision of the members has resulted in \$13 million in funding from US DOL to Employ Milwaukee for industry-driven, skill building initiatives including American Apprenticeship, TechHire and America's Promise.

On a related note, we have officially kicked-off our TechHire IT training program! The first class of TechHire students began training March 20th at Milwaukee's TechForce Center. Over the next 10 weeks participants will receive training and certifications to prepare them for entry- and mid-level IT jobs. I'm looking forward to seeing the great things in store for our first class of TechHire students. A big thank you to Hector Joseph, the Chief Technology Officer of Froedtert Health, for representing employers with IT job openings.

Speaking of filling jobs, we recently held two very successful customized employer recruitment events. With all of our customized recruitments, we manage the details to provide the greatest opportunity for companies to meet with job-ready and qualified individuals onsite at Employ Milwaukee. The two recruitments focused on Financial Services/Customer Service and Hospitality. Employ Milwaukee staff pre-screened approximately 180 job seekers and hosted 15 Milwaukee area companies with current job openings. Employers such as Principal Financial Group, JPMorgan Chase, the MARCUS Corporation, Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, and the Bartolotta Restaurant Group, were pleased with the preparedness of the job seekers. To date, approximately 40 people were hired as a result of these two events.

Finally, I am honored to have been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee (AGC). I'm excited about the work we'll do together over the next two years.

Welcome spring!



Employ Milwaukee hosted two customized onsite hiring events focused on Financial Services/Customer Service and Hospitality. Dustin Farberg, HR Business Manager & Corporate Recruiter for the **Bartolotta Restaurant Group** speaks to pre-screened job seekers on March 17.

Featured Partner

BLUE1647

BLUE1647 is a highly innovative organization touted for their ability to connect underrepresented populations to careers in IT. We are thrilled they are our TechHire training partner. The first class of TechHire students recently

began training at the Milwaukee TechForce Center. After completing the 10-week program, the students will have earned the industry recognized CompTIA A+ certification and gained additional IT skills making them job ready for an entry- or mid-level IT position.

BLUE1647 is an entrepreneurship and technology innovation center that fosters economic development in technology and 21st Century skills through people development (classes, workshops, and events around technology), workforce development (through youth and adult technology programs to prepare individuals for high-demand jobs) and business acceleration (through shared co-working-services). Based in Chicago, representatives of BLUE 1647 traveled to Milwaukee for TechHire orientations and the program kick-off.

"We are excited to be partnering with Employ Milwaukee to train individuals through the TechHire program," said Allyson Scrutchens, Chief Strategy Officer, BLUE1647. "We will be focusing on the A+ certification for anyone who plans to pursue an entry or mid-level position in a technology field. Additionally, we will provide Network+ certification to give students qualifications for networking, wireless, and managing access points."

Currently, there are more than
2,400 OPEN IT JOBS *in metro Milwaukee*



Emile Cambry, Founder and CEO of BLUE1647, speaks at the TechHire Kick-Off as Mayor Barrett, Willie Wade, Chief Marketing Officer, Employ Milwaukee, Earl Buford, President and CEO, Employ Milwaukee, and Kimberly Thomas-Britt, a TechHire student look on.

Company Feature

Principal Financial Group

Principal Financial Group is an active and engaged workforce partner. They work closely with our organization to develop industry-focused training strategies, and have taken a leadership role in workforce development with Dan Buehrle, Regional Managing Director for Principal, as the chair of our Financial Services

On February 23, Principal participated in a successful onsite customized hiring event at Employ Milwaukee to recruit for financial planners.

"The financial services customized hiring event Employ Milwaukee recently hosted was an amazing opportunity to talk to job seekers. We were able to talk with 92 job seekers in a very short amount of time. Additionally, we love that Employ Milwaukee partners with a training provider to ensure the recruits have the necessary skills coming in. This is an added benefit to our talent development; we are talking to people we can actually hire," said Brian Levins, Marketing Director, Principal.



Representatives from Principal Financial Group interview a job seeker at Employ Milwaukee on February 23.

Staff Feature

Scott Jansen Executive Vice President

Scott Jansen has joined Employ Milwaukee as Executive Vice President. In this role, he will oversee the operations of the organization. He comes to Employ Milwaukee from the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) where he served as the Administrator of the Division of Employment & Training since August of 2013. Prior to that, he was the first DWD Office of Skills Development Director, where he built a highly successful department and implemented the Wisconsin Fast Forward Initiative.

"Scott's wealth of public and private sector experience is unparalleled. He is a leader, innovator and creative thinker," said Earl Buford, President and CEO, Employ Milwaukee. "His success in building an educated and skilled workforce across our state through impactful programming and intentional partnerships serves as a national model."

Jansen joined DWD after two years as the Talent Dividend Director for the



Greater Milwaukee Committee. In that role, he led community efforts to increase educational attainment in the region and help returning adults earn degrees and training certificates. Prior to that, he spent 28 years with AT&T and retired as regional vice president of external affairs. A Milwaukee native, he earned an economics degree from the University of Chicago in 1980.

"I look forward to working with Earl Buford and the entire Employ Milwaukee team on talent development, in and around Milwaukee, my hometown," said Scott Jansen, Executive Vice President, Employ Milwaukee. "There is tremendous potential to create a thriving

regional workforce and drive economic development activity. I'm excited about the opportunity."

Employ Milwaukee News

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)

THE FORUM 2017

The week of March 25 - 28, in Washington, DC, Employ Milwaukee's Director of Fund Development Tracey Carey attended the annual conference of workforce development professionals. Leaders in business, government, labor, and education came together to gain insights into the current state of our nation's workforce system, and consider the goals and policy framework affecting the future of human capital development.

The Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA) put together an information packed overview to share with legislators [CLICK HERE](#), featuring statewide highlights.

In 2015, all 11 local workforce boards met or exceeded all measures.

As a state, Wisconsin exceeded in eight measures and met one.

MEETING LOCAL CHALLENGES AND DEMANDS

WIOA brought numerous changes to existing federal employment and training programs, including the consolidation of overlapping programs and a new common performance accountability system across the six WIOA-designated core functions.

The intent was to align and maximize the impact of Federal investment by extending the oversight through local WDBs. We applaud this and believe that local control by and flexibility for local WDBs should be a key element in any Federal employment and skill development investments, whether through WIOA or other legislation.



WISCONSIN COST EFFECTIVENESS

	Total Federal Spending	Total Participants Served	Cost per Participant
Adult	\$10,141,382.00	4,506	\$2,251
Dislocated Worker	\$9,366,826.00	5,264	\$1,779
Youth	\$9,944,919.00	2,391	\$4,159

TechHire IT Training Program Kick-Off

On Monday, March 20, first group of 15 students began information technology training through Employ Milwaukee's TechHire IT training program.

Classes are held at the Milwaukee TechForce Training Center, located at 1916 N. 4th Street. Employ Milwaukee along with its partners, the Housing Authority of the City Milwaukee and BLUE1647 will provide training for individuals who wish to pursue a career in certain IT occupations.

[TechHire Featured in Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)
[TechHire Featured in Neighborhood News Service](#)



Hector Joseph, Chief Technology Officer for Froedtert Health System, talks about the need for people trained in IT saying Froedtert currently has 30 IT positions they are looking to fill.

Featured in The Business Journal

MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL
Register for the 40 Under 40 Awards program >

INDUSTRIES & TOPICS NEWS LISTS & AWARDS PEOPLE & COMPANIES EVENTS

NB National Bankcard
FREE CREDIT CARD
Limited Time Only! LEARN MORE

Getting down to work: Uniting over the 'workforce gap'

There are different ways of characterizing the problem that Milwaukee-area employers and employees face with matching the right person to the right job. Businesses can't always find people qualified for the jobs available; qualified job-seekers can't always find businesses ready to hire.

- Q&A: Hall sets priorities as new Milwaukee Urban League CEO
- Area's jobs gap remedy worth striving for

The Milwaukee Business Journal ran a series of articles featuring workforce. Employ Milwaukee's sector strategies and regional efforts to address workforce supply and demand are highlighted.

Click on the links below for articles

[The Business Journal: "Different cities, same challenges: Not alone in jobs gap"](#)
[The Business Journal: Getting down to work: Uniting over the workforce gap](#)

A proud partner of the  network

Employ Milwaukee | 414.270.1700 | [Website](#)



