

FALL 2021

WORKFORCE CHRONICLES

Employ Milwaukee—Pandemic's Greatest Hits



PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

As we have confronted and are now emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced think outside of the box. For us, this meant expanding our service delivery to an online model, engaging in modified, drive-through and virtual job fair formats, ramping up our community-focused employment opportunities through our Community Resource Navigator (CRN) Initiative along with

Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee and converting our TechHire Bootcamp program to a 100% digital participation design.

In addition, we were also able to engage our workforce development partners in innovative ways to help ensure career readiness services such as resume development, interviewing techniques, financial literacy services, English Language Acquisition and Adult Basic Education.

To help adapt to this new way of doing things, I introduced and emphasized to our team the concept of 'Upstreaming' – which is working proactively. This is simply the notion of working more effectively and efficiently, not harder. There are also five goals that are attached to the Upstreaming theme which include: high quality customer service, innovation, relevance, impact and performance.

As we work to perfect these goals, the audiences that we serve will reap the benefits in the form of employment and career attainment along with talent attraction and retention.

Sincerely,

Chytania Brown
President & CEO
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Sector-based Training

YOUTHBUILD

At Employ Milwaukee we understand that not everybody follows the same path in their career attainment. In fact, for some individuals, they may even drop out of school before their career path is made clear.

Continued



Airwaves



In an effort to add another tool to our community outreach toolbox to help ensure awareness is raised about all matters pertaining to workforce development matters, we launched the Workforce Insights with Employ Milwaukee Podcast during the pandemic.

Milwaukee's workforce development ecosystem constantly adapts to change, opening a spectrum of possibilities around what workers and employers need to be successful. Each month, Chytania Brown, President & CEO of Employ Milwaukee, along with workforce partners from the public and private sectors, discuss insights, trends, challenges, and solutions. If you want to learn more on ensuring equity, expanding job readiness, and catalyzing collaboration among stakeholders, this podcast is for you.

To take a listen for yourself to one of the podcast episodes, click here: <https://www.employmilwaukee.org/Employ-Milwaukee/Newsroom/Podcast.htm>

YOUTHBUILD *Continued*

For those who may find themselves in this situation and are interested in a career in the high demand construction sector, we have the YouthBuild program. Youthbuild prepares young adults aged 16-24 for careers and employment in the construction industry through a focus on attaining a high school diploma and construction skills while receiving exposure and access to employment in the construction trades. YouthBuild occupational skill training provides industry-recognized construction credentials, hands-on learning and mentorship and a paid training opportunity.

Participants must be a Milwaukee County resident, a high school drop-out or a high school/ GED graduate who is Basic Skills Deficient and not enrolled in post-secondary education. The YouthBuild program is an excellent opportunity for industrious individuals who like to work with their hands.

Registration is now open for the next cohort of participants for the YouthBuild construction skills training and paid work experience, which begins on **November 1st**.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please visit our web site to fill out the Pre-Registration form online at www.employmilwaukee.org and search Programs and Services, YouthBuild.



Sector-based Training

No One Left Behind: Community Resource Navigators

One of the things that became immediately apparent through the challenges of the past several months was the need to stay connected to the community with essential goods, supplies and resources.

To this end, Employ Milwaukee is proud to partner with Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, WRTD-BIG STEP and Milwaukee's Community Development Grants Administration in a humanitarian effort to train, employ and deploy nearly 300 Community Resource Navigators, commonly known as CRN (with funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act 2020 – CARES Act).

Through their employment, the Community Resource Navigators supported other Milwaukee residents through the delivery of important public health information, resources, medicine, food, clothing, shelter and supplies to older or at-risk individuals.

The CRN program provided employment opportunities for everyone ranging from youth to 'seasoned' adults.

For more information on the CRN Program, click here: <https://vimeo.com/506298391>

Corporate Collaboration

Another milestone that Employ Milwaukee was able to forge during the pandemic was a collaboration with Kohl's as a new member of the company's Hometown Partners collective.



Through the partnership, Kohl's has donated \$500,000 (two grants of \$250,000 each) to Employ Milwaukee. The partnership reflects a joint commitment between Kohl's and Employ Milwaukee to improve equity and economic empowerment for Black and Hispanic residents in underserved communities in the Milwaukee area.

In addition to financial contributions, Kohl's will support Employ Milwaukee the nonprofit organizations through associate volunteerism, leadership engagement and creating opportunities for a talent pipeline to Kohl's.

For more information on Kohl's Community Partners and Corporate Responsibility, click here: <https://corporate.kohls.com/corporate-responsibility/community-partnerships/hometown-commitment.html>



Community Health and Wellness

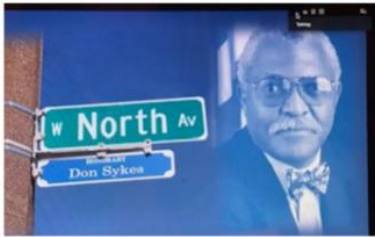
Employ Milwaukee was excited to partner with **The Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)** to host two COVID-19 vaccination clinics providing both first shot and second shot vaccinations to community residents. The shots were free of charge and there was no appointment necessary to receive the vaccine. Also on hand at both vaccination clinics was the **Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Mobile Career Lab** to provide additional access to employment resources for individuals receiving the vaccine.

Helping people to live their best life is our business at Employ Milwaukee. As such, not only do we endeavor to connect job seekers with the skills development, training, employment and career opportunities that they desire.

We also aim to help community residents maximize their mental, behavioral and physical health, as well. Better health typically leads to a better quality of life. We are delighted to do our part to make that happen in the lives we touch.

Donald "Don" Sykes

LEGACY



Another major accomplishment for Employ Milwaukee during the pandemic was to partner with the **Social Development Commission** and **Ascension Wisconsin** to conduct the Virtual Honorary Street Naming Dedication in Commemoration of our very own Donald "Don" Sykes.

Don's substantial contributions in working tirelessly on behalf of low-income people and the community as whole had an impact in Milwaukee and throughout the nation.

A quintessential gentleman and visionary, Don served as Executive Director of SDC and Director of Department of Health & Human Services Office of Community Relations for President Bill Clinton.

In addition, Don also served as CEO of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (now known as Employ Milwaukee).

In all of these roles, Don led the charge in shaping and implementing anti-poverty programs and services designed to improve the quality of life for the community's citizenry.



Employment Bridges

One of the most important aspects of employment preparation and training is youth employment.

Many workers receive their first work experience as teenagers. During the pandemic, Employ Milwaukee's Earn & Learn Community Work Experience Summer Youth employment program forged ahead with valuable work experiences for community youth.

Our Community Work Experience empowers young people to take charge and start building their professional future with an intensive seven-week summer work experience. The Earn and Learn program is more than a summer job initiative, it helps young people develop essential workplace skills, including professionalism and problem-solving skills.





New Horizons: Transition Centers

Among the many disruptions caused by the global pandemic was the displacement of many workers from their previous employment. This was due to a range of factors including closures, downsizing, and bankruptcy.

As part of our Rapid Response efforts to help assist workers and jobseekers who received Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) and have been let go from their jobs, Employ Milwaukee established Transition Centers to provide in-person Dislocated Worker services at multiple, convenient locations in Milwaukee County. The federal WARN Act helps ensure advance notice in cases of qualified plant closings and mass layoffs.

Our aim with the Transition Centers is to provide a ready resource for unemployed workers who are seeking to either gain employment with a new employer in the same field of their previous employment or learn new skills to pursue employment in an entirely different sector altogether.

The Transition Centers are open three days a week on an appointment basis following COVID-19 safety guidelines. At the Centers, jobseekers are able to engage in the following services:

- Computers with internet and printer access;
- Resume prep/ review
- Interview prep
- Job Center of Wisconsin registration assistance and job search guidance
- Receive information about monthly hiring events (virtual/ in-person)
- Participate in web-based seminars i.e., LinkedIn, Budgeting, Mental Health Awareness/ Mitigation, Networking and Mock Interviewing

For more information on Employ Milwaukee Transition Centers, feel free to contact us at:
dw@employmilwaukee.org or call
(414) 270-7565.

EMPLOY MILWAUKEE

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