



# Workforce Connections 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## CONTENTS

- 2 Celebrate! Our Leadership
- 3 Celebrate! Our Mission
- 3 Celebrate! Our Programs
- 4 Celebrate! Our Impact
- 5 Celebrate! Our Performance
- 6 Celebrate! Our Financials
- 7 Celebrate! Our Staff

## Celebrate! Our Board Chairperson

Dear Friends,

Greetings! On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Workforce Connections, Inc., we are pleased to present the 2015-2016 annual report.

Within the pages of this annual report, we invite you to Celebrate! our programs, our staff, our impact and our Board. You will meet real people who are stronger because of our services and learn more about the programs we operate.

One of the key elements of our mission is to help our local and regional businesses access a prepared workforce by offering placement and training services. We are proud to partner with our local economic development organizations, the technical colleges, the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, the State of Wisconsin and the United States Department of Labor to help our local citizens overcome barriers to employment in order to reach self-sufficiency. In doing so, we not only impact the lives of the individuals we serve, but also the productivity of our businesses and the communities in which we operate. We thank you for your support in these worthwhile efforts. The future continues to be bright, and for that, we celebrate!



Ann Boland, Board Chair  
Ingersoll-Rand

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann M. Boland".

## Celebrate! Our Board of Directors

We have an active and engaged Board of Directors who bring their full knowledge of the business and nonprofit organizations to Workforce Connections, Inc. In addition to Chair Ann Boland, they include the following community leaders:



Kurt Bear, Director  
Mid-City Steel



Doug Billings, Director  
Empire



Dimitar Dzikov, Director  
Coulee Bank



Anne Hlavacka, Director  
UW - La Crosse



Neil Kamrowski, Director  
IAMAW



Karen Long, Director  
Organic Valley



Angie Menezes, Director  
Logistics Health, Inc.



Dave Ring, Vice Chair  
Kwik Trip



Tim Vondrastek, Director  
Norwinn Company



Kevin Zagrodnick, Sec.  
River Bank

## Celebrate! Our Mission

*Our mission is to connect people, work and training while advancing self-sufficiency.*

## Celebrate! Our Program Accomplishments



**Wisconsin Works (W-2)** For the second year in a row, WCI received recognition for their work in the Wisconsin Works (W2) program from the Department of Children and Families. The “Best in Class” classification is awarded to the service provider in Wisconsin that exceeded other contractors in helping participants obtain and keep employment. The “Highest Performing Award” is awarded to the highest performing W-2 contractor providing services in both Milwaukee and the balance of the state.

**Food Share Employment & Training and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** WCI received recognition for their work with Wisconsin’s FSET and WIOA Program. Governor Walker addressed the topic at Empire in Onalaska declaring the programs to be “a win, win, win; a win for tax payers, a win for businesses, and most importantly a win for the individual who receives training or placement in employment and has an opportunity to provide for themselves and for their family.”



**Healthcare Navigator** Wanda Palmer, Healthcare Navigator for Workforce Connections, Inc., received a phone call from DJ Patil, Chief Data Scientist for President Barack Obama. Patil called to thank the team for the work that is being done by Navigators for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He stated, “You are one of the best teams working to get the word out and helping folks get covered.”

### *Did you know?*

*In Western Wisconsin, there are 970 businesses that use the Job Center of Wisconsin job posting system, and of these businesses, 50 prefer or require the National Work Readiness Credential (NCRC).*



## Celebrate! Our Impact

**Steve Schwert—Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** Steve was dislocated from USPS in December 2014, and had been living off his retirement savings. He met with his Employment Coordinator, Tyler Diktanas, in March 2016 as he had been trying to enroll in a CNA Training through the American Red Cross. Steve had been unable to find immediate financial assistance to help with the cost of training as his savings had been depleted. He was at risk of becoming homeless. After an initial assessment, Steve was immediately enrolled in the WIOA program. Tyler quickly connected with staff from the American Red Cross to work out a plan to get Steve into the April 2016 course. Tanya promised that a spot would be reserved for Steve while paperwork was completed. Steve's WIOA enrollment and subsequent voucher covered the cost of his training. Steve successfully completed the training in June 2016, and he attained full-time employment as a CNA at Bethany Lutheran Homes in La Crosse. Steve reflects, "When I first met Mr. Diktanas I only had about 8 business days to get into the CNA program or else I would not be able to get in until the next program started in July. Thanks to Tyler's efforts which included after normal hours of work, I am now almost two weeks into the program. Without the efforts of Mr. Diktanas I would be close to living on the streets, but now I hopefully have a career to look forward to. Mr. Diktanas went way above my expectations in providing me services!"

**Keven Walter—Wisconsin Senior Employment Program (WISE Program)** Keven was working at Outers, a gun parts manufacturing plant, when it was purchased by ATK in 2005. The plant moved to California and 133 workers were dislocated. Keven was one of them. Keven was receiving unemployment and applying for jobs, but had no luck obtaining employment. His unemployment was about to run out. Keven felt that the increased use of technology in online applications put him at a disadvantage; and his increasing age worked against him. He then came to Workforce Connections and enrolled in the WISE program. He was placed on a worksite at Hunger Taskforce to help in the garden and warehouse. Keven had to medically exit the program for a short time due to a cancer diagnosis, but after battling his cancer, he returned. He knew he had more to contribute within the workforce and wanted to find sustainable employment. He started at Wafer and remained there until he was hired at Kwik Trip. He still works at Kwik Trip maintaining the machines that prepare the baked goods for packaging. Keven has stated: "I don't know where I would be without this program! I feel that the follow ups were important and I truly felt valued by the staff and program. Keven is planning on retiring from Kwik Trip and lending his extensive past employment expertise and his degree in printing to moving Kwik Trip bakery forward. Keven also has been considered for a supervisory position within his department. He is enjoying where he is at in life. He hopes that others can benefit and take advantage of what the WISE program can offer to those who need it."

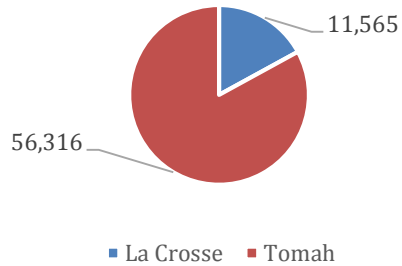
**Alicia Mortenson—Wisconsin Works (W2)** Alicia enrolled in the W-2 program after finding out she was pregnant. She first received unpaid-case management services until she gave birth to her daughter. During that time, her Employment Coordinator, Kristin Bell, and Alicia worked on preparing for her daughter, and completing activities such as developing a resume and cover letter so that she was ready to 'hit the ground running.' When her daughter turned eight weeks old, Alicia was able to quickly find part-time employment at Subway Restaurant and a local bar and grill. She has been working both jobs ever since. Alicia is now receiving follow up and job retention services. Alicia and WCI staff are continuing to work together to secure employment with full-time hours and ideally, benefits. Alicia says, "WCI helped me with gas vouchers to get back and forth to work. They also helped me to find a job, child care, and paid me for maternity leave when I was off work and had no other funding."

**Elliot Winters—Food Share Employment and Training (FSET)** Elliot came to the FSET Program in April, 2016. Previously, he had been employed at a local restaurant, but had been unemployed for some time. He was having financial difficulty and some personal issues. Through his Employment Coordinator, Faith Oliver, Elliot was able to get more organized in his employment search. The program paid for gas reimbursement and that helped in staying on track for finding a job. Elliot has been hired by the Radisson and really enjoys his work. Elliot has said that "without being involved in FSET, I would not have found a job as quickly." He is currently receiving retention services which are very helpful to him. FSET helped him get over the hurdles to employment and he continues to participate 100% in the program!

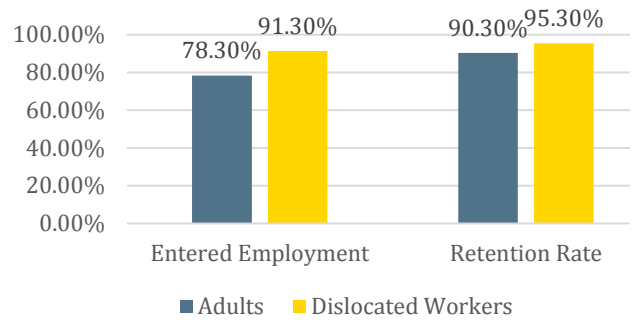
**Rob Cox—Second Chances** Rob had a long criminal history, and had been on the wrong side of the law his entire adult life. During his most recent incarceration, Rob found out that he had become a father again. Something just clicked in his head this time; and decided he wanted to go straight. He had grown tired of life in and out of bars and wants to be around for his newest child. When Rob was released, he met with Second Chances. He stated that his biggest obstacles were his record, sobriety, and CCAP. His Employment Coordinator, Bob Matthews, explored the CCAP issue and discovered that CCAP showed that Rob had killed a law enforcement officer. Rob stated that it had kept him out of employment and housing in the past. He had tried to get the record cleared on a number of occasions, but was unsuccessful. Rob had given up. In the meantime, Rob found his faith and began attending meetings and services that caters to people that have had a rough go at life. Rob began to flourish there. He has even taken several other people who were struggling and put them under his wing. Rob understands and admits that his past effects not only him and his loved ones, but society as a whole. People from Rob's past are amazed at the transformation! Last month, with the support and assistance of his Employment Coordinator, the CCAP record was finally corrected by a court order. Rob is mentoring all of those around him. He is a natural leader to those struggling with sobriety—as he is himself. He has reached out to other participants in the program and helped them bloom and grow.

# Celebrate! Our Performance

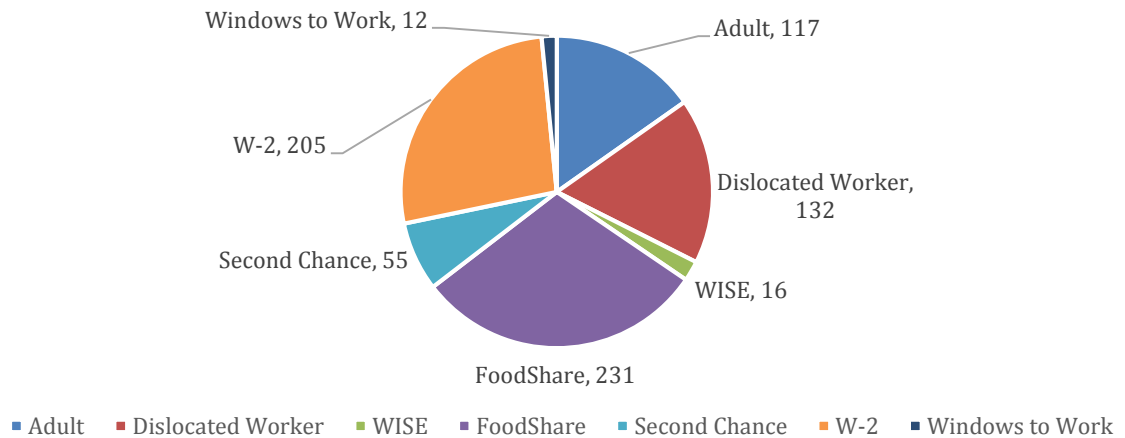
## Wisconsin Job Centers Phone Calls and Walk Ins



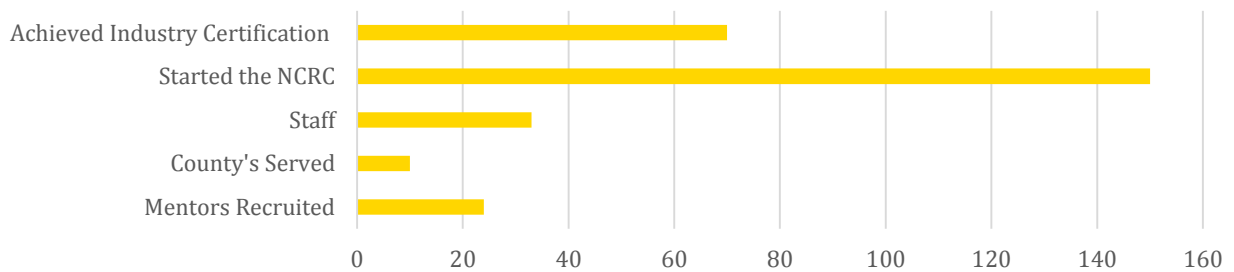
## Adult and Dislocated Worker Performance Rates



## Enrolled/Served



## By the Numbers



# Celebrate! Our Financials

Workforce Connections, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Position  
30-Jun-16  
Draft Audit

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash	\$ 230,161
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 248,845
Grants Receivable	\$ 344,662
Other Receivables	\$ 50,070
Current Portion of revolving loans receivable, net	\$ 7,355
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 23,053
Total Current Assets	\$ 904,146

### Long-term assets

Revolving loans receivable, net	\$ 3,600
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### Property and Equipment, net

\$ 260,553

### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,168,299

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Current Liabilities

Line of Credit	\$ 190,000
Current Maturities of Notes Payable	\$ 134,790
Accounts Payable	\$ 37,580
Accrued Payroll and Related Expenses	\$ 113,850
Grant funds received in advance	\$ 39,048
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 515,268

### Long term notes payable

\$ 92,232

### Total Liabilities

\$ 607,500

### Net assets:

Unrestricted	375,190
Temporarily restricted, revolving loan pool	185,609
Total Net Assets	560,799

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 1,168,299

## Celebrate! Our Staff

Workforce Connections, Inc. is fortunate to have committed staff who are dedicated to the mission of the organization, and daily promote the values and enhance our vision. We celebrate their contributions! They include:

Pamela Amundson, Finance Coordinator  
Carla Anderson, Employment Resource Coordinator  
Kristin Bell, Employment Coordinator  
Autumn Bergerson, Employment Coordinator  
Gina Brown, W-2 and Related Programs Manager  
Andrea Brownlee, Employment Coordinator  
Erika Deal, Employment Coordinator  
Tyler Diktanas, Employment Coordinator  
Mike Dumke, Finance Director  
Jennifer Dwyer, Employment Coordinator  
Kenda Fluegge, Development Manager  
Jessie Foss, Finance Coordinator  
Shannon Franek, Operations Coordinator  
Gidget Gade, Employment Coordinator  
Melissa Hansen, Employment Coordinator  
Amy Larson, Healthcare Navigator  
Bob Matthews, Employment Coordinator  
Jacie Meier, Job Developer  
Gina Merrell, Employment Coordinator  
Frankie Mezera, Operations Coordinator  
Kelly Norsten, WIOA and Related Programs Manager  
Faith Oliver, Employment Coordinator  
Katy Paczkowski, Employment Coordinator  
Wanda Palmer, Healthcare Navigator  
Teresa Pierce, Executive Director  
Amy Scarborough, Operations Coordinator  
Sadie Schultz, Employment Coordinator  
Lisa Sheffield, Job Developer  
Della Snyder, Employment Resource Coordinator  
Teri Stainbrook, Employment Coordinator  
Pam Taylor, Employment Coordinator  
Sandy Turner, Employment Coordinator  
Carol Wagenson, Workforce Development Manager  
BethAnn Zenk, Coach Coordinator

*Workforce Connections, Inc. administers employment and training programs funded through a variety of sources including the United States Department of Labor, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., local employers, and community organizations.*

*Workforce Connections, Inc. is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer/program. Workforce Connections, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of services or employment. If you need this printed material interpreted or in a different form, or if you need assistance in using this service, please contact us. Deaf, hearing or speech impaired callers may reach us through the Wisconsin Relay System at 1-800-WI-RELAY (947-3529)*



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**Connect With Us!**

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[www.workforceconnections.org](http://www.workforceconnections.org)