



2018-2019

Annual Report



1-800-742-5627



www.workforceconnections.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE

Greeting Friends!

Our mission was in full focus during the 2018-2019 program year as our talent demonstrated their commitment to “connecting people, work and training while advancing self-sufficiency!” Through the dedicated and detailed implementation of our employment and training programming, 336 people found jobs and approximately 60% received some level of training. Additionally, at least 24,273 services were provided at the Job Centers in Tomah and La Crosse, and transition type employment opportunities were presented to our program participants. It is critical that we keep the focus on obtaining and maintaining employment to achieve our overarching mantra of being both performance focused and family friendly.



In our current labor market, with area unemployment rates averaging 2.6%, individuals who want to be employed are employed, and that is positive for the overall health of the workforce; however, these individuals may be working two or three jobs, with or without benefits, to try to make ends meet. The minimal increase in wages have not yet kept up with the cost of living, and approximately 51% of the families in Wisconsin would be considered the “working poor.” As we move into the 2019-2020 program year, Workforce Connections, Inc. is committed to addressing the needs of the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population. WCI is also committed to increasing our brand awareness, diversifying our grant base and meeting and exceeding all performance measures. These noble goals will help get us closer to our vision of “being recognized for providing solutions to people, businesses and communities.”

We are fortunate to have excellent partners, committed stakeholders, top notch staff and key leadership from the Board of Directors to help us meet our goals, and we thank all of our colleagues and friends for their support last year and moving forward!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa A. Pierce".

Teresa Pierce, Executive Director

Board of Directors



Ann Boland, Board Chair
Ingalls Rand



Doug Billings
Empire Printing



Dimitar Dzikov
Coulee Bank



Nick Goins
Mid-City Steel



Anne Hlavacka
UW La Crosse



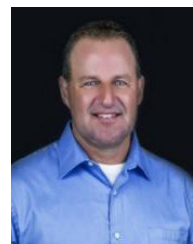
Neil Kamrowski
International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Karen Long
Organic Valley/CROPP



Dave Ring
Kwik Trip, Inc.



Tim Vondrastek
Norwinn



Kevin Zagrodnick
River Bank

Buffalo • Crawford • Jackson • Juneau • La Crosse • Monroe • Pepin • Trempealeau • Vernon Counties

WCI PROGRAMS

Our mission is to connect people, work, and training. In making that mission a reality we operate a number of programs to serve our region's job seekers and businesses. Here are a few snapshots of our major programs.

W2

Wisconsin Works (W2) provides employment preparation services, case management and cash assistance to eligible families. This year our W2 program has been strengthening our connection with the local child support agencies including joint job fairs at the Law Enforcement Center.

FSET

Food Share Employment and Training (FSET) is a voluntary program designed to help FoodShare recipients build their job skills and find employment. FSET helped over 300 individuals find employment!

WIOA

Emergency Assistance (EA) helps eligible individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness or who have experienced a fire, flood, natural disaster, or energy crisis. EA helped 101 Adults and 190 children with avoiding homelessness, impending homelessness, or energy crisis last year alone!

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) helps individuals obtain self-sustaining employment through case management and training support. WIOA helped 64 people with tuition and support in training programs such as Manufacturing, Health Care, IT, Professional Trades, and Transportation during the program year!

The Wisconsin Senior Employment (WISE- TitleV) provides older adults (55+) with training opportunities and part time paid work experiences to build work skills and obtain employment outside of the program. Our WISE program was recognized at a State and Federal level for our service to Older Workers!

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) connects compassionate older adults with our schools to help tutor and mentor children facing barriers. We are always looking for individuals to help reach our youth so make sure to connect with us if you or someone you know might want to help serve through this opportunity. Currently we work with 5 schools and need more volunteers to grow!

Healthcare Navigators help connect and educate individuals on various forms of health insurance. From navigating the Marketplace to learning about Badgercare, Navigators served 180 individuals and families. We are looking for future opportunities to keep this connection to our region going!

Thank you to every person who allowed us a chance to serve them.
Thank you to every business who has partnered with us.
You make our mission a reality!



Interested in our programs? Scan the code to visit our request for services page!

Navigator

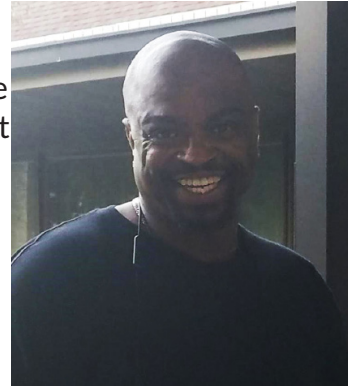
**WISE/
Title V**

**Foster
Grandparent**

SUCCESS STORIES

Terry- W2

After being released from prison, Terry was given his 4 year old son to raise by himself. Originally from Gary, Indiana, he ended up in Minneapolis, MN at a shelter where he was turned away for lack of space for him and his child. They explained to him that they would send him anywhere in the US and when asked where he wanted to go he asked where the next bus was going -La Crosse. With little to no hesitation he got on the bus to come to La Crosse. He was placed at the Salvation Army and was referred to the W2 program. While staying at the shelter with his son, Terry was assaulted by someone while eating breakfast. Following the assault he and his son were placed at a motel until he was able to find housing. When Terry moved to La Crosse he was a newly single father struggling to make ends meet but with the assistance of his Career Planner he was able to obtain Emergency Assistance to help with housing and enroll in the W2 program which helped him find employment and childcare. Workers also helped set his son up with Headstart to allow Terry to find employment. Terry worked with multiple agencies to assist him in overcoming the obstacles of starting over in La Crosse.



Greg- FSET and WIOA Adult

Greg left a long-term employer hoping to find a better culture fit when he stumbled across WCI's FSET program. Although Greg was gifted with a great deal of



book smarts, he never found himself in the position to pursue an education past high school but it had always been a dream of his. After meeting with a career planner, Greg felt a sense of confidence to take the ACCUPLACER exam and enroll into Western Technical College's HVAC program. Greg passed the exam with incredibly high

scores and finished his first year of the HVAC program with high honors and making the President's List. With a co-enrollment in WIOA Adult and FSET, WCI assisted Greg with his tuition, school supplies, transportation and the encouragement to prove he can do whatever he puts his mind to.

"I would advise future Workforce Connections participants to open their minds to what Workforce Connections is...it is another way of helping you find where you need to go and grow yourself into the career you are wanting to go for."

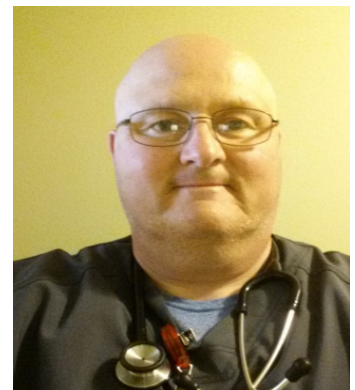
-Nkaonyia (WIOA DW)

Glen- WIOA Dislocated Worker

After experiencing a seasonal lay off at his employer, Glen came to WCI seeking full time employment with year-round availability. Glen has always enjoyed helping others and was curious about pursuing an education in Human Services or Medical Assistant but hesitant because of his age. With the encouragement of his WIOA career planner, Glen enrolled in Western Technical College's Medical Assistant program at the

age of 57. Glen completed the program and after his three-week clinical rotation at Gundersen, he was offered a full-time position. Glen now has a full time, year-round position that allows him to help people and prove that you are never too old to learn. WCI helped

Glen with his tuition, school supplies and of course the support system to reach his career goals.



"Whenever you think it's over with that's just a new beginning, you can make it past anything."

-Terry (W2)

WCI 2018-19 BY THE NUMBERS

398

Enrollments
in FSET

503

Served by
WIOA

20

Recruitment
Events

\$81,792

Tuition
Payments to
Western

\$67,755

Kwik Trip
Fuel Cards

24,273
Job Seekers

\$48,035

Emergency Assistance
Payments

180

Individuals Assisted
through
Navigator

3,358

FGP Service
hours

26 WISE
Participants



72 Monthly
W2 Participants

Highlights



Erika accepting an award for our outstanding work in our WISE program.



WCI increased our social media presence and can be found on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Connect with us!



WCI Staff taking time to build our team to better serve you.



Wanda celebrated 30 years with WCI!



Staff held a winter items drive to donate to our local communities.

FINANCIALS

Workforce Connections, Inc.			
Balance Sheet			
June 30, 2019			
Assets		Liabilities	
Cash-Checking	\$ 159,111	Accounts Payable	\$ 26,139
Cash-Fiscal Agent Services	\$ 40,901	Accounts Payable-Fiscal Agent Services	\$ 150
Cash-Sunshine Fund (Employee Funds)	\$ 836	Accrued Payroll and Related Expenses	\$ 64,022
Cash-Health Reimbursement Account	\$ 5,520	Capital Lease Liability	\$ 67,028
Cash-Money Market	\$ 164,999	Unearned Grant Revenue	\$ -
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 102,055	Total Liabilities	\$ 157,339
Grants Receivable	\$ 255,428	Net Assets	
Other Receivables	\$ (346)		
W2 Fee for Service Receivable	\$ 55,151		
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 62,197		
Equipment and Other Assets, less accumulated depreciation	\$ 67,028	Unrestricted	\$ 543,913
		Temporarily Restricted	\$ 211,628
		Total Net Assets	\$ 755,541
Total Assets	\$ 912,880	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 912,880

WCI TALENT



Pamela Amundson
Finance Coordinator



Kristen Bell
Career Planner



Gina Brown
Director of Operations



Andrea Brownlee
Career Planner



Michelle Burkhardt
Resource Coordinator



Erika Deal
Job Developer



Jennifer Dwyer
Career Planner



Shannon Franek
Operations Coordinator



Gidget Gade
Career Planner



Amanda Johl
Career Planner



Amy Larson
Career Planner



Kelly Norsten
Director of Administration



Faith Oliver
Career Planner



Wanda Palmer
Career Planner



Teresa Pierce
Executive Director



Taylor Schreier
HR Coordinator



Della Snyder
Resource Coordinator



Teri Stainbrook
Career Planner



Tina Tucker
Career Planner



Chelsey Yeskie
Career Planner

Mission

To connect people, work, and training while advancing self-sufficiency. We accomplish our mission by being financially sound, performance driven, value-based, well-trained, and dedicated to organizational development and stakeholder relationships.

Vision

To be recognized for providing solutions to people, businesses, and communities. With intelligence, integrity, and innovation we will be valued leaders in developing and connecting talent to the workforce.

Values

The core values embedded in our beliefs and daily performance include integrity, fairness, respect, compassion, dignity, empowerment, collaboration and responsibility.



Connect with us in 2019-2020



A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter**® network

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).