Region 06 PY17 Annual Report

# Executive Summary

The vision for WIOA is to have an integrated and efficient workforce delivery system. By implementing WIOA in Iowa and Region 6, Iowans have access to high–quality education, training, and work readiness. The system partners and core partners within Region 6 have made many changes in our everyday processes that continue to yield success for the customers we serve. We have initiated many integrated processes within the region and continue to work towards improving and changing even more in the coming years.

# Regional Initiatives/Partnerships

Region 6 has expanded our partnerships and regional initiatives by seeking new and innovative opportunities:

Iowa Valley WIOA staff and IowaWorks have been collaborating with the Eldora State Training School just under two years now to provide soft skills training as well as job readiness skills to the students to help them be more prepared to enter the workforce when they return home. The team hopes to directly impact the recidivism rate for these young men. As an added piece to this initiative the State Training School team visited the Iowa*WORKS* center to create a video for students. This video will be used as a tool to show students what to expect when they transition home and encourage them to utilize the services of the local Iowa*WORKS* centers in the State of Iowa. The team has also developed a referral system for the entire state to help assist the young men as they make this transition.

Region 6 Iowa*WORKS* partnered with Iowa Valley Community College to host an Advanced Manufacturing Day Event. One hundred forty eight students from Region 6 high schools attended the event along with high school counselors and construction tech teachers. Ten employers within our region presented to small groups of students about their business operations. Students spoke with instructors and toured the different skilled trades programs including Automotive, Utility, Electrical, Mechanical, Welding, and Tool & Die at the local community college. This event led to more awareness of local businesses and job opportunities that were available.

Region 6 Marshalltown Iowa*WORKS* Iowa Valley partnered with Region 11 Des Moines IowaWORKS and the Ames Chamber of Commerce to create a Highway 30 Corridor Career Fair. The partnership between the bordering Iowa*WORKS* regions has opened the door for many other employment opportunities for our customers within the Regions. The Fair started with a confidence builder to pump up the job seekers and help them to present their best self to the employers. We were also able to partner with Iowa Valley Community College to provide transportation to the Career Fair for those who otherwise would not have been able to attend due to the lack of transportation. The partnership between Regional workforce offices and chamber has led to other events in the area even making the Highway 30 Corridor Career Fair an annual event.
The second annual Limelight Leadership Academy, a youth centered WIOA focused initiative, was made possible through the partnerships between Alliant Energy Foundation, Iowa Department for the Blind, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Iowa Valley Continuing Education, and Iowa*WORKS* Iowa Valley.Thirty two young adults were served from within the region. Limelight Leadership participants focused on finding their future, how to overcome adversity and recognize the power within themselves. They were able to tour businesses, training centers and had some fun with several hands on activities in different areas. Many apprenticeship and local short term training opportunities were presented in Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Construction. The group also had a full day of confidence building at the Iowa Valley Challenge Course.

WIOA Title I regularly partners with the our local Adult Basic Education program to provide soft skills training to students. When a new group of students go through the HSED program WIOA staff provide a two day work readiness workshop. This partnership has brought a comfort level between our program, the instructors and the students allowing an easier enrollment process. We have seen an increase of peer and instructor referrals.

WIOA Title I staff are often facilitators for workshops offered by the center. In order to ensure a quality training we invite local experts to present on the topic. A partnership has been developed with Wells Fargo to provide Financial Literacy. Participants are able to gain knowledge from the experts in the field. Outsourcing this workshop has also helped us maintain service levels on the skills/membership floor as well as our case management services.

Employer Services/Business Engagement

Core Partners realized that duplication of outreach to businesses needed to be coordinated. From this realization, the Partner Business Outreach group was developed in program year 2016. This group has expanded its services and have tasked ourselves with demonstrating a unified approach in working with employers. Many events have stemmed from this initiative during PY 17, including employer summits held in each county within the Region. The summit topics were developed from needs identified by employers.

Region 6 staff are there when the community is in need. The Dislocated Worker program was able to provide a Rapid Response for KMart in Marshalltown, MWI Animal Health (veterinary supply) in Iowa Falls, and AmeriHealth Caritas during PY 17. Partnerships are heavily relied upon during the Rapid Response process due to the urgency and timing of these services. The partners have developed a system of working side-by-side in order to bring resources and opportunities to assist those newly unemployed community members.

Our Regional team continues to provide soft skills workshops to Employers at no cost to them in order to provide quality training to their employees, without setting up any further barriers for employers that may impact their success or bottom line.

Promising Practices and Success Stories
Core Partners identified a need to streamline the Region’s referral process. A workshop, Orientation to Partner Services, was created that would allow participants to hear first hand, in more detail, about the core partner programs. The workshop has led to more appropriate and higher quality referrals.

A group of local resource partners have come together to provide monthly lunch and learns at the one stop center. Each month a different resource introduces the services they provide to the community. A need was seen by this group to help increase awareness amongst local resource partners, allowing opportunities for collaboration and reducing duplication of services.

Curtis L. is currently an Iowa Valley Community College student and is enrolled in the Electro-Mechanical Industrial Technology Program through Trade. Curtis commutes to school daily. In March of 2018 his only mode of transportation died. The repair bill came to around $2000 which Curtis was unable to pay. Through a combined effort between WIOA Title I and Iowa Valley GAP, the two programs were able to split the cost of the repair. This combination of resources paid for the repairs of his vehicle and enabled Curtis to continue his education. He will graduate in May of 2019.

Local Veteran Rich D. enrolled as a Dislocated Worker in the WIOA Title I program. Rich was placed in an OJT at Brownells in Grinnell, one of the largest distributors of gun parts, as a Website Product Support Technician. As a former gunners mate in the Navy, Rich loves working on firearms. Brownells is a business where Rich always dreamed of working. Rich was able to marry his passion with work.

# Completed By

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