



GET CONNECTED

Dedicated to the region's workforce development

2018 ANNUAL SUMMARY

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

OUR MISSION

About The Workforce Connection Board

The Workforce Connection helps support economic growth in Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties. Our mission is to create a competitive, skilled and educated workforce by providing a system for individuals to gain meaningful employment in response to the needs of business.



2018 REFLECTIONS

BY DR. LISA M. BLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are a regional resource. Everyone talks about workforce issues that exist in our area, and The Workforce Connection board develops and executes strategies to address those issues with federal funds that have been entrusted to us. We work with employers, training providers and individuals to create solutions to close the skills gap in our region. I'm excited about our future and our partnership with community leaders to improve workforce readiness in our region.

2018 REFLECTIONS

BY FRANK ROTELLO, BOARD CHAIR



Our Board, staff, and partners have been working hard focusing our efforts on meeting the workforce needs of our region. TWC's tagline is "Get Connected." Our priorities are on job seekers and employers to deliver on the commitments made in our vision statement. TWC continues to evolve as an organization and we are well positioned to meet the workforce challenges and opportunities of our region.

The Workforce Connection's vision is to **ADVANCE THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE REGION** by providing a **QUALIFIED WORKFORCE** through an integrated, accessible, **EMPLOYER-DRIVEN SYSTEM**, utilizing our collective resources to develop human capital for existing and emerging opportunities.

The Workforce Connection BOARD

Officers

Chair

Frank Rotello, CEO
Alpha Controls & Services LLC

Vice-Chair

Michelle Cassaro, Chief Financial Officer
Chicago Rockford International Airport

Secretary/Treasurer

Amy M. Ott, President
Boylan Catholic High School

Immediate Past Chair

Karen Brown, Community Member

Board Members

Ben Bernstein, President

Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois

Eric Black, Human Resource Recruiter

Alorica Inc.

Nathan Bryant, President & CEO

Rockford Area Economic Development Council

Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator

City of Rockford

Linda Campos, Owner

Campos Construction, Inc.

Len Carter, Chief Human Resources Officer

FHN

Gary Evans, Business Development Dir.

First National Bank

Scott Bloomquist, Reg. Superintendent of Schools

Boone/Winnebago Regional Office of Education

Pamela Fettes, Executive Director

Growth Dimensions of Belvidere and Boone County

Einar Forsman, President & CEO

Rockford Chamber of Commerce

Alan Golden, President

Northwestern Illinois Building & Construction
Trades

Dr. Daniel Grohens, Rehab. Services Supervisor

IL DHS – Div. of Rehabilitation Services

Jerry Guinane, VP of Human Resources

SwedishAmerican Health System

Bob Guirl, Community Member

Greg Harle, Training Director

Plumbers & Pipefitters LU 23

Tim Hood, President

Highland Community College

Vanessa Hughes, President

Hughes Resources

Dr. Douglas Jensen, President

Rock Valley College

Paul Logli, CEO

United Way of Rock River Valley

Rebecca Motley, Executive Director

Greater Freeport Partnership

James Pirages, Attorney at Law

Hinshaw & Culbertson

Jordan Priest, VP Engineering and Sales

Star Manufacturing

Troy Primus, Director of Maintenance

AAR Corporation

Kraig Reichwald, VP of Manufacturing

Custom Metal Products

Crystal Soltow, Co-Owner

PCF Belvidere Fitness

Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean, Adult Ed & Literacy

Rock Valley College

Craig Steege, Campus Director

Rasmussen College

Mark Stefanic, Director of Projects

Supply Core

Dr. Rudy Valdez, Project Manager

Kaney Aerospace

Jeff Zeal, Local Office Manager

Illinois Department of Employment Security

Elected Officials

Chair

Mayor Thomas P. McNamara

City of Rockford

Frank Haney (Winnebago County Board Chair)

Winnebago County

Karl Johnson (Boone County Board Chair)

Boone County

William Hadley (Stephenson County Board Chair)

Stephenson County Board

Staff

Dr. Lisa M. Bly, Board Executive Director

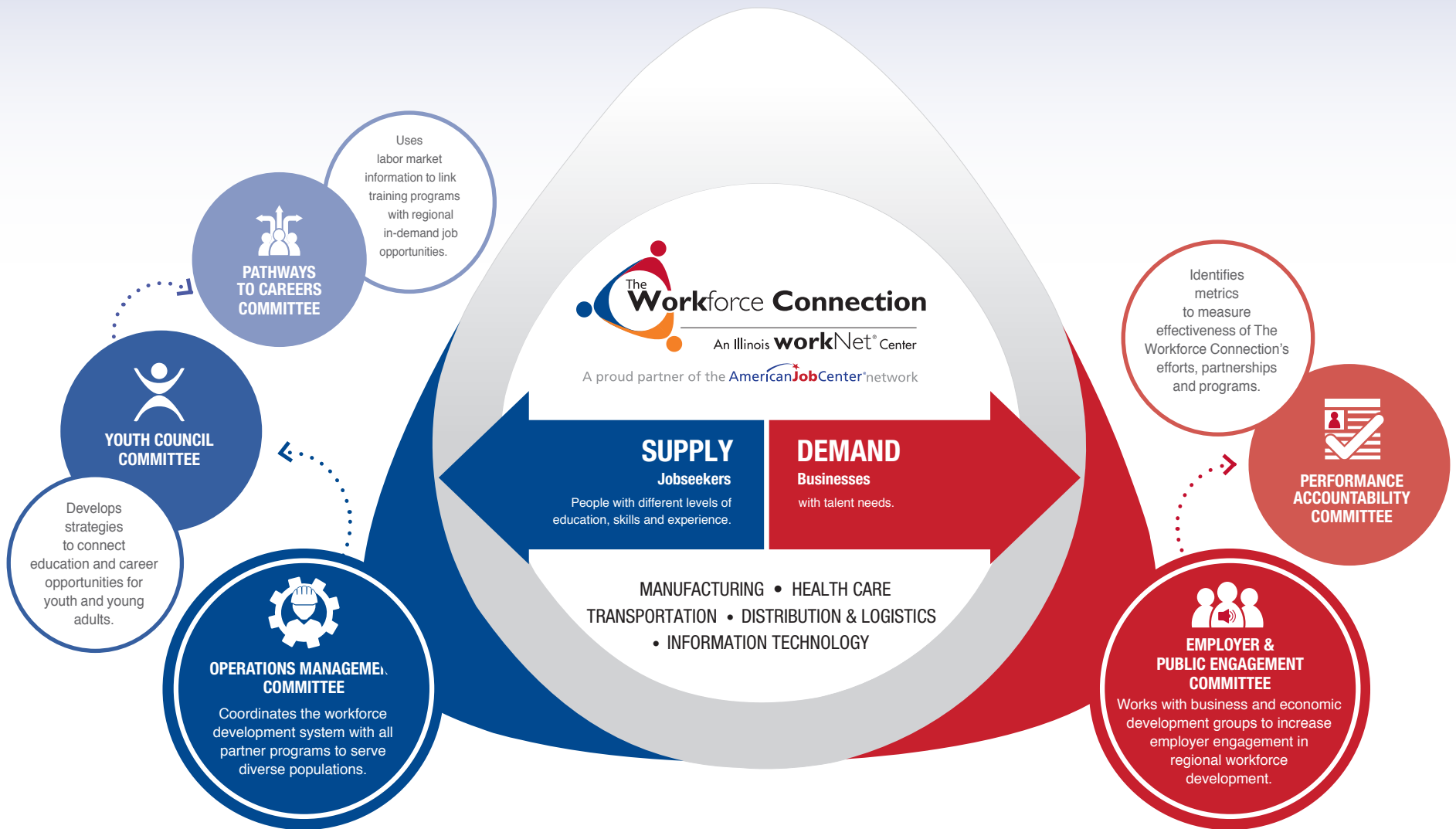
Christopher Connors, Planning & Quality
Assurance Manager

Cathy Cornelius, Board Assistant

Mike Johnson, Grant Compliance Specialist

Robert Jones Jr., Business Account Manager

Dan White, Fiscal Manager



GET CONNECTED

Dedicated to the region's workforce development

YOUR LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD

Serving Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties

CONNECT WITH EDUCATION

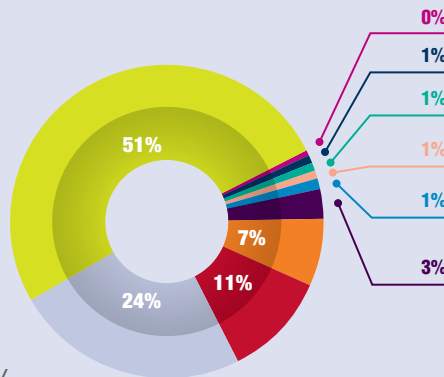
The Workforce Connection has a network of regional training partners that provide career and technical training and on-going support during training.

CLASSROOM TRAINING BY INDUSTRY

TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPENDING
\$1,168,000



CLASSROOM TRAINING
PROVIDED PER INDUSTRY



CLASSROOM TRAINING SPENDING

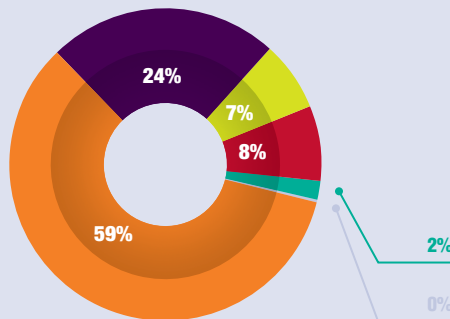
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$594,000	
Transportation and Warehousing	\$286,000	
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$131,000	
Manufacturing	\$84,000	
Construction	\$34,000	
Administrative and Support Services	\$11,000	
Information	\$9,000	
Retail Trade	\$7,000	
Other Services	\$7,000	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$5,000	

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING BY INDUSTRY

TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPENDING
\$262,000



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
PROVIDED PER INDUSTRY



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SPENDING

Manufacturing	\$155,000	
Construction	\$62,000	
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$21,000	
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$19,000	
Other Services	\$4,000	
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,000	

EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

Employer Success Stories



Anchor Harvey is a manufacturer of aluminum, brass, and copper forged components. They were facing a need to close the skills gap in their maintenance department. Anchor Harvey partnered with The Workforce Connection to develop a training program using incumbent worker dollars.

The result: Employees gained improved and diversified skills, positioning them to have greater earning potential and more versatility on the job.



FHN, an award-winning, regional healthcare system, was unable to attract and retain trained phlebotomy workers. With staff shortages in Stephenson County, it became difficult to adequately cover shifts and maintain quality of patient care. FHN partnered with The Workforce Connection to train FHN's Certified Nursing Assistants to become Patient Care Techs.

The result: The hospital saved the cost of hiring a staffing agency or paying current staff to work overtime, which reduced overhead and staff burnout and effectively covered patient care.



Growth Dimensions in Boone County needed to develop their in-house talent. They took advantage of The Workforce Connection's Work Experience program when searching for office support. The program funded a portion of the wages of the chosen job applicant as she developed relevant technical skills to prepare for her new job.

The result: The job seeker became a strong asset to her new employer after receiving training, coaching and mentoring provided by The Workforce Connection.



Rockford Ball Screw built a 30,000 square-foot production floor and needed to train newly promoted staff to support the expansion. At the same time, they needed to hire hard-to-find skilled machine operators. A partnership with The Workforce Connection and its Incumbent Worker Program allowed Rockford Ball Screw to provide the needed training to existing staff while an On-the Job-Training program, with costs offset by incumbent worker dollars, helped find two skilled machinists for their blackening department.

The result: Decreased employee turnover, prevention of job layoffs, and local job retention to boost the company's long-term commitment to region.



INCUMBENT WORKER DOLLARS
\$74,079

SPENT WITH EMPLOYERS TO
UPSKILL THEIR CURRENT WORKFORCE



19,226
ILLINOIS JOB LINK
ACTIVE RESUMES



36,943
CAREER CENTER
VISITORS



48,903
CAREER CENTER
SERVICES PROVIDED

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CONNECTED ACROSS THE REGION

"The Workforce Connection holds an incredibly important role in our community. They bring for-profits, nonprofits, private businesses, educational entities, and public entities together to drive our communities discussion around workforce development. With an aging workforce coupled with a strong economy, workforce development is at the heart of our regions success today and tomorrow."

Mayor Tom McNamara
City of Rockford

"Workforce is the #1 issue for employers in Stephenson County. The work of The Workforce Connection is vital and necessary for our success."

Gary Quinn, Board Chair
Greater Freeport Partnership

"The Board and Leadership at The Workforce Connection have worked diligently to understand the workforce climate for employers in the region and have adapted fund availability and special programs to address individual employer's needs."

Einar Forsman, President & CEO
Rockford Chamber of Commerce

"The Workforce Connection is a key Partner in Boone County. As a strategic partner and convener of workforce solutions, they have joined Growth Dimensions Economic Development to build business retention and training that addresses the immediate workforce priorities for employers."

Pamela Fettes, Executive Director
Growth Dimensions of Belvidere and Boone County

Our Employer Partners

Absolute Grinding
Acument
Adkins Energy
Aeroplastics
American Food Group
Americold
Anchor Harvey Components
Area Mechanical Inc
Bergstrom Inc.
Burpee Museum of Natural History
Cardinal Staffing
CCSI International, Inc.
Ceroni Piping Company
Choice Furniture
Cintas
Corpro Screentech
Countryside Fresh Markets
Custom Metal Products
CyberEye Technology Solutions (Rockford)
Danfoss
FHN
First Midwest Group
Franklin Display Group
Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois
GPM Investments
Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
Great Northern Instore
Greater Freeport Partnership
Growth Dimensions
I. Spinello Locksmiths
Imperial Punch
Integrative Medical Associates
Kids Around the World
Leading Edge Hydraulics
Lets THRIVE360
Loescher Heating & Air Conditioning
Machinist Mate One
Magna International
Manpower
Mechanical Inc
Midwest Areo Support
Midwest Packaging & Container, Inc
Miller Engineering
Nelson Piping Company
Northwest Bank
Northwest Community Center
Northwest Pallet
Nuestro Queso LLC
Quality Transport
Quantum Design Inc
RBG Janitorial
Resource MFG
Rockford Ball Screw
Rockford Quality Grinding, Inc.
Rockford Rescue Mission
Rockford Specialties Company
Rockne! Fastener, Inc.
Rogers Precision Machine
Servicom, LLC
Shurberts Speed Shop
Specialty Screw Corporation
Stateline Solar
Steward & Assoc.
Superior Joining Technologies
Supply Core Inc.
SwedishAmerican
The Connection
Top Die Casting Co.
Total Plumbing and Heating LTD
Tri Part Screw Products
Tri Star Metals
US Census Bureau
Veterans Assistance Commission (Winnebago County)
Weber-Stephen Products LLC
Winnebago County Housing Authority



OFFICE LOCATIONS

- 303 N Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101
- 530 S State Street, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008
- 307 W Main Street, Freeport, IL 61032

☎ 815.847.7574 | TTY 800-526-0844

The Workforce Connection Disclaimers

The Workforce Connection – an Illinois WorkNet Center and partner in the American Job Center network.
This program is funded by The Workforce Connection, Inc., IL Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, and the U.S. Department of Labor.
The Workforce Connection is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
All voice telephone numbers on this website may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment by calling TTY(800) 526-0844 or 711. Contact the Equal Opportunity Officer at 815-395-6626.
This program is subject to the provisions of the “Jobs for Veteran’s Act” Public Law 107-288, which provides priority of services to veterans and spouses of certain veterans.