



MISSION

To ensure a workforce is equipped for today and prepared for tomorrow.

VISION

To be the leader of the Lake County workforce system that produces a highly skilled workforce and powers the region's economic vitality and quality of life.

**Employer Connections Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Zoom Meeting URL:

<https://zoom.us/j/92610843666>

- I. Call to Order** Karen Stoneman, Chairwoman
- II. Public Comment**
- III. Chairwoman's Report** Karen Stoneman
- IV. Consent Agenda Items**
 - Approve:**
 - September 2020 Employer Connections Committee Meeting Minutes Attachment A.1
 - 2020 Committee Meeting Schedule Attachment A.2
 - Review:**
 - Workforce Development Brief Attachment A.3
- V. [Workforce Board Strategic Plan](#)**
 - Abbott Laboratories Recruiting Event Attachment B.1
 - Lake County Manufacturing Data Update and Discussion
- VI. Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings**
 - 1. Employer Connections Committee Meeting (Joint Meeting with Talent Pipeline Committee) – January 19, 2020 at 9:00AM
 - 2. Workforce Development Board Meeting – November 19, 2020 at 8:00AM
- VII. Adjournment**

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Employer Connections Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Zoom Meeting URL:

<https://zoom.us/j/94786007916?pwd=TWZhZTZVoTlNPZ2sxZXN5Wk1MMzhnZz09>

Present: Chairwomen Karen Stoneman, John Bradarich, Kevin Considine, Emily Garrity, Demar Harris, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer, Sylvia Johnson Jones, Carlotta Roman, Jennifer Serino,

Absent: Eric Kurtz, Robyn Safron, Arlene Santos-George

I. Call to Order Karen Stoneman, Chairwoman

Chairwoman Stoneman called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Chairwoman's Report Karen Stoneman

Chairwoman Stoneman announced that the Lake County Workforce Development and Abbott is holding a Drive-Thru Hiring Event for a variety of Production Assembly positions on Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Cristo Rey St. Martin High School.

IV. Consent Agenda Items

Approve:

- June 2020 Employer Connections Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachment A.1

Action: A motion was made by Member Roman, seconded by Member Johnson Jones, that the consent agenda be approved. A roll call vote was made, and all members voted "aye".

The motion carried.

V. Workforce Board Strategic Plan Discussion

- Increase industry-led workforce solutions
- Create a culture of equitable prosperity
- Develop solutions through career pathways
- Continue to be the Workforce Innovative Leader

Member Serino and Laura Gergely reviewed the Workforce Board's Strategic Plan and gave a detailed updated of the top industry clusters in Lake County. You can find the full update presentation [here](#).

VI. Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

1. Employer Connections Committee Meeting – October 20, 2020 at 9:00AM
2. Workforce Development Board Meeting – September 24, 2020 at 8:00AM

Chairwoman Stoneman announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 24 and the next Employer Connections Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by member Kessler and seconded by member Johnson Jones that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 AM.

LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND COMMITTEE

2021 SCHEDULE

Workforce Development Board – 8:00 a.m.

February 25
April 29
June 24
September 30
November 18

Executive Committee – 8:15 a.m.

January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
July 7
August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1

Operations Committee – 9:00 a.m.

January 11
March 8
May 10
August 9
October 11

Employer Connections Committee – 9:00 a.m.

March 16
August 17
October 19

Talent Pipeline Committee – 9:00 a.m.

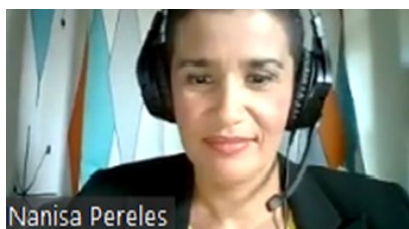
March 17
August 18
October 20

Joint Employer Connections and Talent Pipeline Committee – 9:00 a.m.

January 19
May 19

Equal Employment Opportunity Presentation

70 employers and community representatives attended an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) presentation on August 13, 2020. Held annually over the past four years, this was the first event that was hosted online by the Job Center of Lake County. Attendance almost doubled with this new format. The presentation included an overview of laws that protect employees and job applicants against employment discrimination. The purpose of the presentation is to educate employers about the value of hiring a diverse workforce and to arm them with tools to accomplish this.



Nanisa Pereles

Nanisa Pereles from the federal EEOC helped employers learn about their obligations in the workplace. She shared the definition of employment discrimination and provided a broad overview of federal employment discrimination laws. Kathleen Wager, Veteran's Employment Representative with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, also provided information about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Fidelity Bonding. WOTC is a federal tax credit available to employers who hire veterans and individuals with significant barriers to employment from other eligible target groups. A fidelity bond is no-cost insurance coverage that enables employers to hire job applicants considered to be an employment risk. It protects employers against potential employee dishonesty, theft or embezzlement. Wilson Giraldo, Business Service Specialist, also discussed programs for employers provided by the Job Center.

Industry Snapshot Presentations

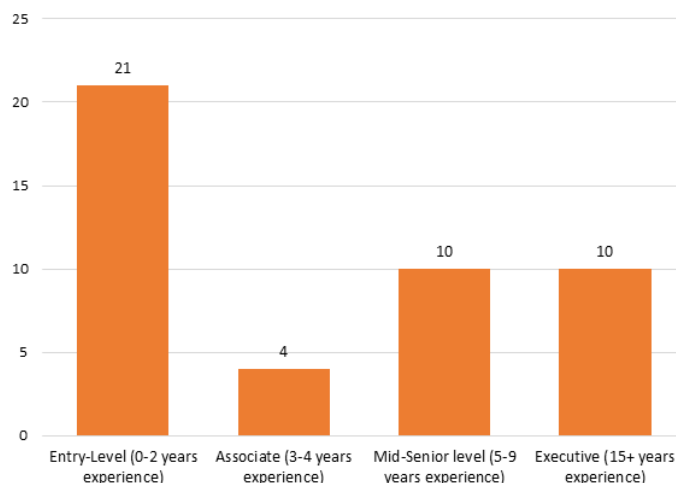
Industry-focused presentations were created to engage and expose job seekers and community residents to in-demand industries, career fields, and labor market information. These presentations also provide local employers and training providers with a platform to discuss their current opportunities.

Each industry presentation is a two-part event. The first part is an industry snapshot that provides an inside look at the industry and includes labor market information, career paths, and a Q&A discussion with an employer. This is hosted by Business Service team members, whose primary focus is working with employers to meet their hiring needs.

The second part is an industry information session that provides information on local training opportunities and includes a Q&A discussion with local training providers. This is hosted by Career Specialists that work one-on-one with job seekers to create training and employment plans.

Each series focuses on one industry. The Job Center of Lake County has completed events on the Healthcare and Information Technology industries. There are future events planned that will focus on the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics industry and the Manufacturing industry.

Professional Experience Level of Attendees



The chart above illustrates the experience level of individuals who attended the Healthcare and Information Technology presentations.

COVID-19 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Equipment Grant

The Lake County Workforce Development Board in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provided small business and non-profits with reimbursement grants to assist with the current health crisis. The Workforce Development Board recognized that COVID-19 had put a difficult burden on local businesses and non-profits and saw this as an opportunity to assist.

The grant funds helped to equip businesses with strategies that assist in mitigating layoffs and adhering to social distancing provisions established by state and federal health entities. The allowable strategies and costs for the funds included the following:

- Payment for special cleaning and sanitation services
- Purchase of software and hardware for remote working
- Cost of conversion to call center/remote work environments
- Cross functional or transitional training
- Production of essential goods and services needed to support COVID-19 response

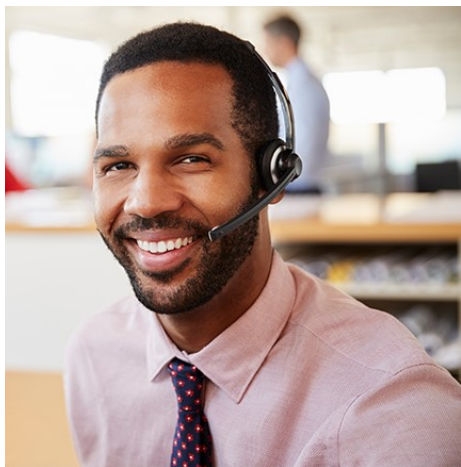
Essential businesses interested in applying for the equipment grants were asked to submit an application. There were over 80 inquiries. DCEO reviewed the relief grant applications and approved five Lake County employers to receive assistance to address their expenses. There were over \$120,000 obligated and approved for local employers. Lake County Workforce Development met with the businesses and non-profits that did not receive grant funds to discuss additional relief efforts and workforce grants that could be available to them.



Contact Tracer Grant

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Lake County Workforce Development has partnered with the Lake County Health Department and Salem Staffing on a project with the goal of identifying and placing unemployed workers in disaster relief employment as Contact Tracers within the Health Department.

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Lake County Health Department uses contact tracing to identify and notify people in the community who may have been exposed to the virus. Individuals working as Contact Tracers will aid the Health Department's contact tracing process while earning an average wage of \$18/hr. over the course of one-year. Funded through the National Dislocated Worker Grant, this initiative began on June 1st, 2020 and has already seen 12 individuals complete the process and begin their disaster relief employment.



Once an unemployed individual is identified for a Contact Tracer opportunity, they are referred to Workforce Development and are connected with a Career Specialist to complete their Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) application process. Upon completion of their WIOA application, they then move onto the final steps of the process with Salem Staffing and the Health Department to conduct the necessary employee onboarding and

training before starting their Contact Tracer employment. During their disaster relief employment, Salem Staffing serves as the employer of record while the Lake County Health Department serves as the official worksite.

In addition to providing employment opportunities to unemployed workers, this project will also provide significant aid in addressing the community health impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic in Lake County.

Lake County Workforce Development

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Waukegan, IL 60085

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jobcenter@lakecountyil.gov

Join us on social media!



@LakeCountyWorkforce



@LakeCountyJobs



@JobCenterofLakeCounty



**GLOBAL MULTINATIONAL BIOPHARMACEUTICAL LEADER ABBOTT
LABORATORIES TAPS INTO LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEM TO
MEET COMPANY'S TALENT NEEDS**

Abbott Park, Illinois, October 7th, 2020 — Abbott Laboratories., a Multinational Biopharmaceutical company that finds solutions that remove barriers to living healthy lives, strengthen communities where we live and operate, and building life-changing technologies and medicines to manage our health connected with Lake County Workforce Development regarding its staffing needs. Abbott Laboratories has been working closely with U.S federal and state authorities as well as customers in urgent care clinics, hospitals emergency departments, and physicians to ensure rapid portable testing kits are produced timely.

Abbott Laboratories collaborated with Lake County Workforce Development, the College of Lake County, Lake County Partners, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and Manpower to tap into the vast resources of the Eco-System to address the 2,000 jobs made available due to the national dependency on testing kits being made at their newly renovated facility in Gurnee to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Based off this need a Drive Thru job fair was created for Abbott Laboratories on October 3rd from 10:00am to 2:30pm at St. Martin De Porres (Cristo Rey) school parking lot to market testing kit production jobs paying between \$18/hr. to 21/hr., while offering 1st and 2nd shift opportunities.

With the assistance of the Eco-System 1,000 direct mailers went out to Lake County residents, Abbott Laboratories and Lake County Workforce Development created a promotional video, an event registration page was created for Abbott Laboratories, 2,000 recently laid off workers were emailed, CLC students and alumni were sent flyers, active Workforce Development job seekers were text, and St. Martin De Porres (Cristo Rey) allowed Abbott Laboratories and Lake County Workforce Development to utilize their school parking lot for the drive thru job fair event. Abbott Laboratories in partnership with Manpower and Lake County Workforce Development engaged with 330 Lake County residents at the drive thru event. Over the next three to four weeks hundreds of job seekers will be hired onboard to be part of Abbott Laboratories pandemic relief efforts. Abbott Laboratories plans on having all 2,000 employees hired by the end of October.

“Great job by Lake County Workforce Development and many thanks for such fantastic engagement” said Vildan Kehr, Abbott Laboratories Divisional Vice President of Global Talent Acquisition.