

## LUNCH BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### ***Give Me Ten Kickstart Intern Program (Connecting Classrooms to Careers)***

**Speakers: Sue Closs, Founder; Jack Wilson, Educator, Give Me 10**

Discover how the award-winning Give Me 10 program connects classrooms to careers. This session, led by its creators, will highlight the program's structure and the benefits it provides to youth participants.

### ***Hiring Justice-Impacted Youth***

**Speaker: George Moore, Legacy Reentry Foundation NFP**

Learn about the challenges and opportunities of employing justice-impacted youth. This session will provide strategies, resources, and best practices for inclusive hiring that supports their workforce reintegration.

### ***Networking and Mentorship***

**Speaker: Fallyn K. Cotton, Antmound Foundation**

Hear how mentorship transforms the lives of young people. This session explores the challenges, rewards, and best practices of mentoring youth for personal and professional growth.



Following the close of the 2024 Youth Symposium, we encourage you to stay engaged and connected with the Lake County Workforce Development Board and our collaborative efforts to provide ongoing strategic support for the youth in our community.

Visit [www.LakeCountyWorkforce.org/YouthSymposium](http://www.LakeCountyWorkforce.org/YouthSymposium) for resources, highlights, and additional opportunities for you to continue being a part of this important effort.



**Learn  
More!**

### **Daniel "DJ" Newport, Board Coordinator**

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# 2024 Youth Symposium

September 26, 2024

College of Lake County  
Auditorium

[www.LakeCountyWorkforce.org/YouthSymposium](http://www.LakeCountyWorkforce.org/YouthSymposium)

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 Lake County Youth Symposium. Today marks a pivotal moment for our community to come together, share insights, and develop strategies to empower the next generation of leaders. Your presence here reflects your commitment to addressing the challenges our youth face and your dedication to making a meaningful impact.

As we engage in today's discussions, remember that supporting our youth is a collective responsibility. It's not a zero-sum game—every effort counts, and it will take all of us, along with many others, to ensure the continued growth of our youth into the adults who will lead our county into the future.

This symposium is not only about recognizing the incredible work already being done but also about strengthening our efforts through collaboration. By working together, we can create a stronger support system that meets the diverse needs of our youth. Let today be a reminder that it takes all of us—educators, employers, community leaders, and service providers—to build a brighter future for Lake County's youth.

Thank you for your commitment and passion. Together, we can and will make a difference.



## AGENDA

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

### Check-in

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

### Welcome and Introductions

Kickoff by Kim Wimer and Jennifer Serino.

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

### Youth Disconnection Report and Asset Map

A presentation of key insights on youth disconnection rates, followed by the introduction of the Youth Services Asset Map—a tool for driving collective action and impact.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

### Keynote Address

Hear from Marcus Jordan, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach Coordinator for the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

### Break

Refreshments and networking opportunity.

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

### Breakout Sessions

Topics include Legislative Discussion Focused on Legal and Insurance Barriers to Youth in the Workforce., Supporting Youth with Special Needs, Trauma-Informed Work Environments, and Understanding Youth Employment Needs and Barriers.

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

### Break and Begin Lunch

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

### Lunch Breakout Sessions

Topics include Give Me Ten Kickstart Intern Program (Connecting Classrooms to Careers), Hiring Justice-Impacted Youth, and Networking and Mentorship.

12:45 PM – 1:00 PM

### Next Steps and Closing



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Legislative Discussion Focused on Legal and Insurance Barriers to Youth in the Workforce

#### Speaker: State Senator Mary Edly-Allen

Senator Mary Edly-Allen will discuss youth employment, recent changes to child labor laws, and how they impact industries like manufacturing. Employers, policymakers, and educators will explore ways to improve career exposure opportunities while addressing regulatory concerns.

### Supporting Youth with Special Needs

#### Speakers: Hamilton Hale, Pioneer Center for Human Services; Gianni Serrano, IL Dept. of Rehabilitation Services (DRS); Elaine Threats, DRS; Barry Godsey, DRS

DRS counselors and a service provider will share strategies and resources for integrating youth with disabilities into the workforce. Employers will learn about available services, funding, and tips for creating inclusive work environments.

### Trauma-Informed Work Environments

#### Speaker: Ashley Cullen-Williams, LPC

This session will explore how trauma affects young workers and offer practical strategies to create supportive, trauma-informed workplaces. Employers will learn how to recognize trauma-related behaviors and promote emotional well-being.

### Understanding Youth Employment Needs and Barriers

#### Speakers: Melissa Canu and Mel Arsenaut, ICF

This session will present key insights from a consultant report on the challenges and needs of youth in employment.