



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2007

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NEW WORKFORCE INITIATIVE AIMED AT IMPROVING SERVICE COORDINATION

Unemployed and underemployed Iowans have much to gain.

Des Moines, IA — Iowa Employment Solutions (IES) at DMACC is launching a new initiative to improve communications and coordination among all workforce services to Central Iowa customers. The first step is a survey that's being distributed to all public and non-profit job placement, training and work support service providers this week in Central Iowa.

"By developing greater synergy between all of our workforce partners we will improve services to unemployed and underemployed Iowans," said Mike Wilkinson, executive director of IES. "This has been our direction since DMACC proposed assuming this responsibility last fall."

Specifically, Wilkinson said the new workforce network will remove duplication of services, improve the referral process so customers can get the services they need more quickly and overall streamline the job training and job placement process in Central Iowa.

"It will also allow for more effective evaluation of services and best practices that should improve outcomes and reduce cost per client," added Wilkinson.

The survey is being sent to more than 20 organizations including the United Way of Central Iowa, Children and Family Services, Job Corps, the American Indian Council, Goodwill Industries, Urban Dreams, Spectrum Industries and Creative Visions, just to name a few. It creates an inventory of services that requests information on their organizational strengths, resources, performance measures, locations, and gauges interest in signing an agreement to participate in the workforce collaboration.

Wilkinson said that Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC wants to elicit cooperation among as many organizations as possible. If any workforce agency or group does not receive a survey and wants to participate they are welcome to go on-line and complete the survey at www.iowaemploymentsolutions.org

"The more workforce providers we have on board the more successful it will be for all of our organizations, businesses and customers," said Wilkinson.

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Rob Denson, President of DMACC said IES is taking a leadership role in forming this workforce network.

“We are facing a workforce shortage in Central Iowa and it’s the responsibility of everyone in education and training to help meet the growing needs of business and industry,” said Denson. “We all have much to gain from this collaboration, including those who need it most – unemployed and underemployed Central Iowans.”

Wilkinson encourages any organization that provides workforce assistance and or training to contact him if they have questions at michael.wilkinson@iwd.iowa.gov or call at (515) 281-9643.

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DMACC is committed to educating, training and encouraging success for students of all ages. DMACC is Iowa’s largest community college, annually serving nearly 28,000 students enrolled in credit classes and more than 32,000 students in non-credit programs on six campuses and many other locations across Central Iowa.

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