



May 2018

*Western Iowa Advantage is a collaborative group of economic development officials in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, and Sac Counties.*



**REGISTER NOW**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2018**

*Mark your calendars for the 2018 Employer Educator Summit*

Employers have openings across a variety of fields. The skills gap in the U.S. is particularly acute in the construction industry, with the U.S. Department of Labor estimating that nearly 7 million jobs will need to be filled by 2024. Be a part of the solution as we gather educators and employers in a one-day summit to discuss strategies to ensure our students have the skills they need to succeed in all types of careers in our region's economy.

## Employer Educator Summit

Sponsored by Western Iowa Advantage, IowaWorks,  
and Iowa Economic Development Authority

**WHEN** 9am to 3pm - Wednesday, October 10th

**WHERE** LPA Conference Center  
5071 Clover Ridge Rd, Panora, IA 50216

**TO REGISTER** [Click Here to Register.](#)



## SUMMIT AGENDA

- 9:00-9:10** Opening, Evan Blakley, Chair, Western Iowa Advantage
- 9:10-9:25** Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Director
- 9:25-10:25** Local Program Incentives Toolkit
- 10:25-10:35** Break
- 10:35-11:00** Federal Regulations related to Hiring Youth, Department of Labor
- 11:00-12:00** Resources Toolkit
- 12:00-12:45** Lunch and Workforce Warrior Awards
- 12:45-1:45** Keynote Speaker
- 1:45-2:45** Collaboration Toolkit
- 2:45-3** Closing, Evan Blakley, Chair, Western Iowa Advantage

## WIAD Partners Tour Carroll Businesses

In May, Western Iowa Advantage partners toured two newly opened businesses in downtown Carroll.

Carroll Brewing took possession of a historic brick building located one block south of US Highway 30 in August of 2017. The 10,000 square foot facility houses a 20-barrel brewhouse, five 80-barrel fermenters, and a 100-person capacity taproom and bar.

Biokinometrics, a technology and software company, recently constructed a new facility in the same block as Carroll Brewing. Biokinometrics was founded by Dr. Steven Kraus to advance technology and software in the chiropractic industry.



*Left: Dr. Steven Kraus addresses WIAD partners during their Biokinometrics tour.*



*Right: WIAD partners Mark Reinig (CIRAS-ISU) and Mike Fastenau (Black Hills Energy) tour Carroll Brewing.*

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## Crystal Freeze Dry LLC Tour

Western Iowa Advantage partners toured the recently opened Crystal Freeze Dry plant in Panora in June. Crystal Freeze is an established food processing company that relocated from Washington State, specializing in dehydrated eggs.

Bowe Boecker and CEO Hernan Etcheto met with the WIAD partners and explained the plants process and future for the company. Crystal Freeze employs 20 people at the facility.



*Right: WIAD partners with Crystal Freeze Dry products. From left: Mike Fastenau (Black Hills Energy), Sarah Gomez (MWP), Rick Hunsaker (Region XII COG), Hernan Etcheto (Crystal Freeze Dry LLC), Shannon Landauer (CADC), Rita Frahm (ICED).*

*Left: View of Crystal Freeze Dry facility from the road.*



# Workforce Warrior Award Application

Western Iowa Advantage (WIAD) wishes to increase the visibility of the variety and availability of careers in western Iowa. This effort has included promotion of connections between our employers and our schools. Primary in that strategy is the annual Employer-Educator Summits, where workforce issues are discussed hand-in-hand with examples of successful partnerships in Iowa. WIAD believes that students do not fully understand how degrees, certificates, and apprenticeships can translate into jobs available today that are close to home with good salaries and benefits. As more schools and business work together to rectify this knowledge gap, WIAD began the Workforce Warrior Award to recognize businesses and schools that are successfully implementing a program or project that enhances a collaborative relationship with an educational institution or local business(es), providing opportunities to students that promote careers in our region. As part of the award, a small financial stipend is provided to help further the work being recognized.

## Program Mission

Western Iowa needs workers. Communities strive to retain and attract persons who are native to the area or who have other ties (e.g. family or business). Students attending our schools are a natural way to achieve this goal, and is the primary driver behind the WIAD Employer-Educator Summit.

## Eligibility

Any business, K-12 school, or postsecondary institution with physical operations within the counties of: Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, Sac County is eligible to apply. Additionally, awardees:

- Must have an existing or planned program that involves opportunities for students enrolled in a K-12 school or post-secondary education program. For educators, this program should allow students to gain knowledge of the local business or industry.
- The program or project being recognized must be replicable.
- Awardees must illustrate the relationship between business and the local education system.
- There must be a benefit that occurs/will occur outside of the program/project.
- Awardees should explain how the stipend (\$500) will help further the goals or results of the partnership.
- If selected as an award winner, a representative from your business or school must be present to receive the award at the Employer-Educator Summit on October 10, 2018 in Panora. You may be asked to provide a brief summary of the project.

## Application Process

Submit a one to six page document that includes: 1) Name of Business or school; 2) Name of Program; 3) Contact Name, Phone, Address, and Email; 4) Name of Partner School(s); and, 5) text explaining your business's or school's current/planned program and how it is impacting students or providing opportunities for them to better gain knowledge of your business or industry (business) or to better gain knowledge of the careers in western Iowa (educators).

Applications must be submitted by September 7, 2018 to Rick Hunsaker [rhunsaker@region12cog.org](mailto:rhunsaker@region12cog.org) or by mail to Region XII COG Attn: Rick Hunsaker, PO Box 768, Carroll, IA 51401. Questions may be directed to Rick Hunsaker at 712-792-9914.

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## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Falls to 2.3% in June

The Western Iowa Advantage Region's monthly unemployment rate decreased to 2.3 percent in June 2018 from 3.0 percent in June 2017, according to figures released from Iowa Workforce Development. Iowa's unemployment rate was 2.7 percent in June 2018 from a revised 3.2 percent in June 2017. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in June 2018. Total employment in the region increased slightly to 46,550 in June 2018 from 38,900 in June 2017.

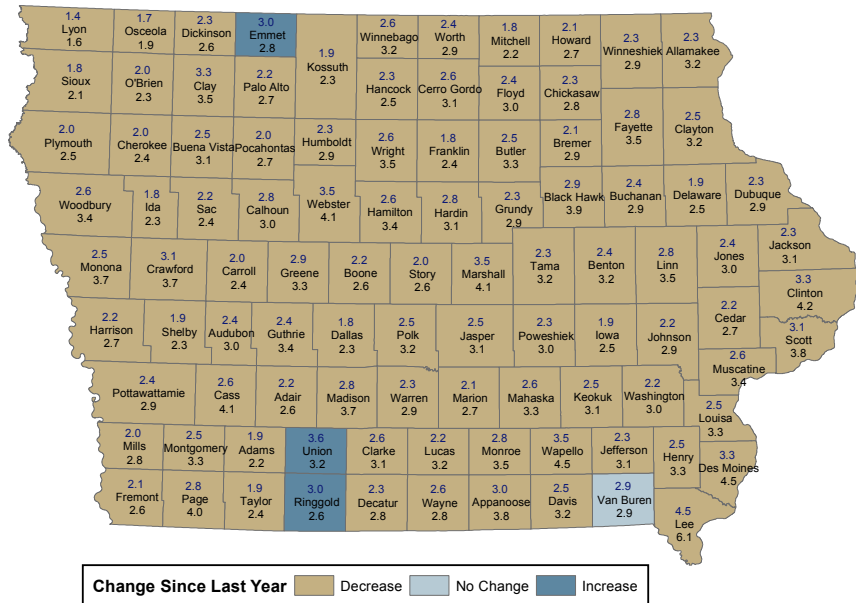
Western Iowa Advantage tracks various economic indicators in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Guthrie, Greene and Sac Counties in Iowa, including employment trends.

County unemployment rates in the region for June 2018:

Adair	2.2 %
Audubon	2.4 %
Carroll	2.0 %
Crawford	3.1 %
Greene	2.9 %
Guthrie	2.4 %
Ida	1.8 %
Sac	2.2 %

### Unemployment Rates for Iowa Counties in June

June 2018 (Rate Above) and June 2017 (Rate Below)



## WIAD PARTNERS:

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