

2023

**Workforce
Alliance**

Annual Report



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network



WA President and CEO Keith Lawing presents Outstanding Service Award to WA Board Member and past chair Gabe Schlickau of CoBank.

Letter from the Board

On behalf of the Workforce Alliance (WA) Board and staff, it is our pleasure to present the 2023 Annual Report.

This report highlights how the WA and our partners at the KansasWorks Job Centers provided high quality employment and skills training opportunities to support the local economy. We are proud of the staff and partners of thecWA for the ability to be creative and innovative to effectively serve both job seekers and employers.

The WA Board adopted a new set of strategic goals 2023-2025 to guide operations and provide a focused direction for the organizations. The strategies target both the immediate need of employers and also looking at the future of the workforce in terms of jobs and skills.

Through partnerships with higher education and the business community, the WA continues to create community impact by leveraging resources and aligning services from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) above and beyond the annual funding allocation. Examples include the Youth Employment Project, Home Base Wichita, Fair Chance, and SNAP E&T.

We look forward to the opportunities in 2024 and are honored to help lead this outstanding organization.

Jeff Longwell

Keith Lawing, President and CEO
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Inc.

WA Board of Directors

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors serves as the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) for Local Area IV of Kansas.

Jeff Longwell (Chair), Eck Auto Group
Alana McNary (Vice Chair), PEC
Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education Foundation
Kevin Hunt, Spirit Aerosystems
Ebony Clemons, Evergy
Michele Gifford, Textron Aviation
Cheryl Childers, Cox Machine
Robyn Heinz, Vornado Air
Kathy Jewett, HR Consultant
Patrick Jonas, Cerebral Palsy Research
Kristina Langrehr, Ascension
Melissa Musgrave, Airbus
Alex Munoz, Creekstone Farms
Luis Rodriguez, Envision
John Rolfe, Wichita Regional Chamber

Gabe Schlickau, CoBank
Kami Moore, Cowley College
Laura Ritterbush, Goodwill/NexStep Alliance
Sally Stang, City of Wichita
Dr. Kimberly Krull, Butler Community College
Dr. Sheree Utash, WSU Tech
Cornell Beard, Machinists Union Lodge #70
Andrew Chance, Iron Workers - LU #24
John Clark, Plumbers & Pipefitters #441
Marcus Curran, Sheet Metal Workers #29
Russell Kennedy, IBEW, #271
B.J. Moore, SPEEA, IFPTE Local 2001
Tony Naylor, Wichita Elec. Training - IBEW #271
Eric Hunt, KS Dept. of Children & Families
Erica Ramos, KS Dept. of Commerce

Grant Projects & Community Partnerships

The goal of the Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board is to leverage resources and align services to increase the community impact of the annual Federal allocation from WIOA.

At the direction of the LWDB, staff and Workforce Center partners seek opportunities to secure grants and collaborate on training projects to bring more funding to the region. The result is job seekers and employers in Local Area IV have access to a number of different employment and training programs beyond WIOA.

- WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth
- AT&T Digital Literacy
- Digital Skills Initiative
- Evergy Connect Initiative
- Home Base Wichita
- JFF Workforce Development Board Digital Skills Pilot Initiative
- National Dislocated Worker Grant
- One Workforce Grant
- Partner 4Work Dislocated Worker Grant
- Pathway Home
- Project Hope
- Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
- Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN)
- Snap E&T
- State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity, and Innovation Grants
- Work-Based Learning
- Youth Employment Project (YEP)

Overview

The following represents WIOA outcomes for Program Year 2023.

Adult

Employment Rate (2nd Qtr. after Exit)	76.9%
Employment Rate (4th Qtr. after Exit)	74.8%
Earnings (Median Earnings 2nd Qtr. after Exit)	\$7,668
Credential Attainment (Within 4 Qtrs. after Exit)	80.5%
Measurable Skills Gain (Real Time Measure)	83.3%

Dislocated Worker

Employment Rate (2nd Qtr. after Exit)	88.3%
Employment Rate (4th Qtr. after Exit)	88.6%
Earnings (Median Earnings 2nd Qtr. after Exit)	\$11,159
Credential Attainment (Within 4 Qtrs. after Exit)	62.1%
Measurable Skills Gain (Real Time Measure)	60.0%

Legend

- Exceeded Goal
- Met Goal
- Did Not Meet Goal

Youth

Education and Employment Rate (2nd Qtr. after Exit)	78.2%	Credential Attainment (Within 4 Qtrs. after Exit)	66.9%
Education and Employment Rate (4th Qtr. after Exit)	83.2%	Measurable Skills Gain (Real Time Measure)	54.5%
Earnings (Median Earnings 2nd Qtr. after Exit)	\$4,526		

Goals were exceeded in fourteen measures and one did not meet sanction.

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Wioa Youth Program

The WIOA Youth Program assists young adults in overcoming barriers that stand between them and their educational and career goals. In 2023 they served a total of **112** individuals.



The youth program helped me connect with an employer that was willing to give me a chance to work, even though I'd never worked for a construction company before. During the job interview, I felt like I had a lot more confidence talking to them about my skills because of the help from the Workforce Center. - Jaden



Jaden reached out to the Workforce Center for assistance to move into a different industry, as she had been working in food service since her teens. She worked closely with her WIOA Youth Case Manager and Work Experience Coordinator to narrow down her interests, revamp her resume and practice her interview skills. Jaden landed on construction and interviewed with Dondlinger Construction. She nailed the interview and is now earning \$17 an hour with employer paid health and dental coverage as a full-time laborer in Dondlinger's Facilities Services Division.

Summary of Services

Adult Mentoring	2
Alternative Secondary School Offerings	5
Career Guidance/Labor Market Information	50
Financial Literacy Education	60
Leadership Development	55
Occupational Skills Training	37
Guidance & Counseling	6
Work Experience	52
Supportive Services	47
Follow Up Services	25
Case Management	112

Supportive Services

Bus Passes	15
Housing	9
Fuel	10
Utilities	16
Employment Related	23

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Special Projects and Initiatives



REAP is a council of local governments that provides a strong voice for the region at the state and national levels, advances greater economic prosperity through regional cooperation, and addresses issues that cross governmental boundaries.

REAP staff and member took actions to enhance and increase collaboration with the federal and state legislative delegations, as well as regional organizations, councils of governments and education institutions of south central Kansas. Although there were shifts in the leadership of REAP, there was strong continuity and continued cooperation with governments and private and public sector partners.



The Senior Community Service Employment program (SCSEP) serves individuals 55 and older needing assistance with updating work skills to become more qualified for employment in the current job market. From the beginning of PY23 to the end of last quarter the program has served 83 individuals in a seven county so far with two quarters to go. The program partners with local non-profit and government agencies to provide participants part time work training opportunities. So far, this has resulted in 28,421 hours of community service in PY23.

The K-254 Corridor Development Association meets quarterly. The meetings are hosted by member communities. An average of 30 members, composed of elected and appointed officials from the communities along the corridor as well as elected and appointed officials from Butler and Sedgwick counties, attend the meetings. Business, industry, landowners and other interested stakeholders are also members.

In 2024, the K254 Strategic Planning Committee is developing a strategic plan for the Association, focused on:

- Safety
- Advocacy
- Education
- Marketing

Because of the K-254 Corridor Development Association's efforts, KDOT is leaning into safety improvements. These collaborative efforts are on-track to significantly improve safety and increase development in the corridor.

The City of Wichita proclaimed November 13 - 19 Registered Apprenticeship Week 2023.

Back row: Cristin Boyle (Spirit), Elizabeth Harp (Spirit), Molly Brown (Flagship), Melody Head (WA), John Clark (Plumbers and Pipefitters) Front row: Lori Hladik (Spirit), Bob Potter (Metal Finishings), Mayor Whipple, Conner Hamilton (Flagship)



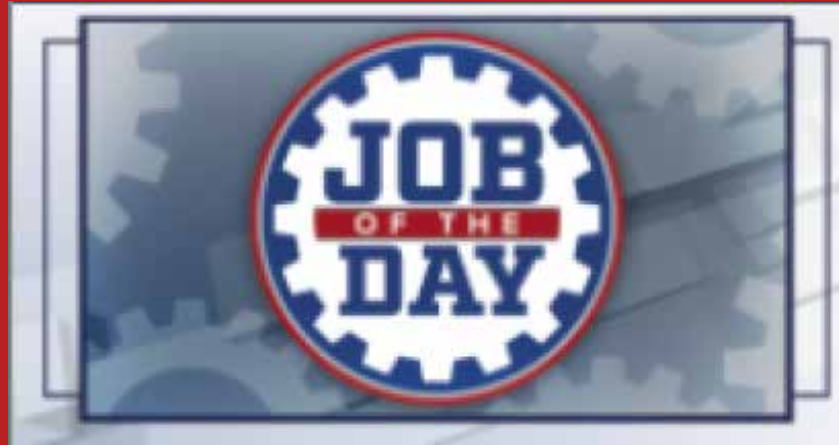
The Workforce Alliance was awarded \$709,338 capacity funding to provide customized employer-led training in-house or via scholarships at local area colleges. Funds are prioritized for advanced manufacturing, including semi-conductor production, maintenance repair and overhaul, healthcare and childcare, or other in-demand occupations in South Central Kansas. Full implementation of this program will begin in 2024.

Follow the journeys of five young Kansans as they take a deep dive into their home state's career possibilities. From aerospace and advanced manufacturing to healthcare and agriculture, discover the diverse range of career paths available in South Central Kansas. Fueled by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, Wichita Public Schools, Wichita State University, WSU Tech, the State of Kansas, Strada Foundation, Textron Aviation, Spirit AeroSystems, and Bank of America, Paths Across Kansas was broadcasted regionally in two parts on September 28 and October 5 on PBS Kansas.

Right - Roadtrippers from left to right: Austin, Gary, and Aubrie



Special Projects and Initiatives



Fair Chance 2023 Summary

Employment Lab Attendees	223
Direct Referrals	238
Entered Employment	305
Retained Employment 6 months	85.25%
Average Wage 6 months	\$15.60
Average Wage 12 months	\$14.77
Retained Employment 12 months	76%

In September 2020, KWCH launched “Building You”, an ongoing series in which anchor Lily Wu highlights a open position on the 4pm newscast. The job posting is also featured the following morning on the KWCH website, along with other available jobs through the Workforce Center and the state job board, KANSASWORKS.com. Additionally, KWCH runs a weekly feature story on Wednesdays about job openings and the economy. The Workforce Center assists in providing ideas and content for these features. The Business Service Representatives reported 261 KWCH Featured Jobs with an average wage of \$20.88


The end of the year in 2023 still shows a lot of success. There are usually lower numbers due to the holidays but employment rates still remained quite steady. Retention and employment rates are very strong. The referral process and employment lab are successful at Probation. At Parole, the numbers remain lower due to the new referral process. During the month of November 2023 employment lab was offered every Wednesday and a different workshop was offered every Thursday with very little success. Discussions are ongoing on how to best utilize this position at the Parole office. Services are still not being offered at the Wichita Work Release Facility but the employment lab is available to the Work Release clients who are housed at the Residential Facility.

Youth Employment Project

In 2023, YEP served 5,732 young adults and engaged 435 employers, reflecting a 60% increase in total youth served and a 78% increase in employers engaged compared to 2023 totals.

Camp HYPE

Camp HYPE is a week of career exploration that combines ESC workshops with tours to local employers by industry. Eight camps were held weekly from June 6 - August 10. USD 259 provided four staff to assist with operating the camps and delivering the workshop curriculum. Employers and Industries represented this year: Trade Skills, Textron Aviation, Healthcare sponsored by Ascension Via Christi, Spirit AeroSystems, Tech sponsored by FlagshipKansas.Tech, Financial Services sponsored by Bank of America and Meritrust Credit Union, Public Safety sponsored by The Wichita Metro Crime Commission, and Camp McConnell sponsored by McConnell Air Force Base.

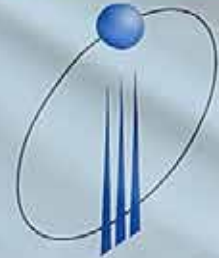


Young Adults Served	5,732
Workshop Participation	858
Badges Awarded	1,545
Essential Skills Certificates Earned	515
Total Employment	2,392
Participating Employers	435
Job Fairs	20
Job Fair Attendance by Young Adults	2,653
Job Fair Attendance by Employers	248
Outreach Sessions	115
School Engaged	27
Counties Engaged	6

*Jobs Fore Youth
Golf Tournament*



THANK YOU TO OUR TITLE SPONSOR!



INTEGRA
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Presented by Integra Technologies

Proceeds benefit the Youth Employment Project

Congrats to Team Wind Surge!

The winning team included Bob Moullette, Mike Rajewski, Jake Cooley, and Logan Schrag



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Business Services

Employers are the primary customers for the WA, allowing services and training for job-seekers will meet the needs and align with the available jobs in the regional economy.

Business Services

- Services to Employers - 2,561
- Job Postings - 7,358
- In-Person Visits - 386
- Employers Served - 559

Prescreen Applications Assessments

- Applicants - 344
- Applications - 356
- Assessment Participants - 964
- Assessments Administered - 2,805

Rapid Response

- Employers Served - 28
- Services Provided - 36
- Individuals Served - 1,432

Job Fairs

- Job Fairs - 56
- Job-Seekers - 4,007
- Employers - 550

Pre-Employment Screening: Work-Ready Certificate

Work-Ready Data for 2023

Total Sessions	280
Total People Scheduled	5,572
Total People Tested	3,437

Work-Ready Credentials Awarded

Total Awarded	2,944
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Bronze 894

Silver 1,026

Gold 655

Platinum 369

■ 2023 Total

Learn more here!



Partners

The WIOA Act of 2014 requires LWDB's to create One Stop Centers providing services to employers and job seekers.

LWDB's implement policies, design programs, and monitor the quality of services to ensure they meet the unique needs of the local labor market. A number of partners and agencies provide a full range of services pertaining to employment, training and education, employer assistance, and guidance for obtaining available employment services. Twelve organizations are now delivering services to the public through 18 programs. Five organizations are collocated at the Center and ten programs provide access to services.

Collocated Partners & Programs

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas

- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth
- Special Grants
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Youth Employment Project

American Indian Council, Native American Program

Butler Community College, including Wichita Indochinese Center, Adult Education

Cowley College

Flint Hills Job Corps

Evergy Connect

Goodwill Industries of Kansas

Home Base Wichita

Lead for America, American Connection Corps

Kansas Department of Commerce

- International Trade
- My Re-Employment Plan
- Office of Apprenticeship
- Older Kansans Employment Program
- Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)
- RetainWORKS
- Veteran's Services
- Wagner Peyser

Sumner County Economic Development Coalition

U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Services (International Trade)

- U.S. Commercial Services (International Trade)

Affiliated Partners

Catholic Charities

Child Start

City of Wichita

- Wichita Public Library
- Evergreen Neighborhood Center

Kansas Dept. for Children & Families, Vocational Rehabilitation, SNAP E&T, TANF

Kansas Department of Corrections

Kansas Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance, OSHA, Wage & Hour

NexStep Alliance

Sedgwick County Corrections

SER Corporation - National Farm Workers Program

Wichita State University

WSU Tech

RA Applications and Prescreens

2023	Applications and Prescreens	Completed Referrals	Completion Percentage
January	31	8	26%
February	25	4	16%
March	23	18	78%
April	31	11	35%
May	29	20	69%
June	19	10	53%
July	11	6	55%
August	13	6	46%
September	11	4	36%
October	8	3	38%
November	8	3	38%
December	9	6	66%
Totals	218	99	45%

Currently there are 27 Registered Apprenticeship (RA) sponsors and three Intermediaries active in LAIV, totaling 51 approved RA programs. The WA accepts onsite applications for five RA programs. In December 2023, 9 individuals engaged in the RA application process, resulting in 6 completed applications delivered to RA program sponsors for consideration, details are above.

In LAIV, there are currently 618 active apprentices enrolled in 51 RA programs:

RA Sponsor

Active Apprentices

Butler Rural Electric	2
City of Augusta	3
City of Wellington	1
City of Winfield	3
Cox Machine	1
FlagshipKansas.Tech*	2
Independent Electrical Contractors	65
InterHab**	11
Ironworkers JAC	10
Metal Finishing	9
Plumbers & Pipefitters of Kansas	256
Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative	2
Sheet Metal Workers JAC	38
Spirit AeroSystems	52
Textron	17
Wichita Electrical JAC	142
Workforce Alliance of South Central KS***	2
WSU Tech	2
Total	618

Social Media Traffic

Below are the total number of impressions, engagements, and followers for each of our social media channels in 2023.



Wichita	25,386
Off Site	12,078
Butler	884
Cowley College	424
Sumner	233
Total	39,005

Facebook

- Impressions - 443,660
- Engagements - 27,558
- Followers - 6,462

YouTube

- Impressions - 410,730
- Engagements - 36,202
- Followers - 980

Website

- Impressions - 281,107
- Engagements - 92,432
- Followers - 9,251

Twitter

- Impressions - 49,765
- Engagements - 868
- Followers - 1,415

Digital Skills

The Digital Skills Initiative provides the opportunity to prepare and upskill Kansans for competitive and high-demand technology careers in the region

The Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas was awarded \$210,000 through Workforce Development Board Digital Skills Pilot Initiative from Jobs For the Future



The American Connection Corps (ACC) is a program of Lead for America, a national non-profit organization focused on building a leadership force of moral, dynamic, and locally-rooted leaders committed to serving communities they call home in every corner of this country. ACC is Lead for America's boots-on-the-ground service corps, aimed at activating local leaders in rural and emerging communities to tackle critical, bi-partisan challenges to advance economic prosperity. Through ACC, Lead for America ensures that national service opportunities are indeed available in every corner of this country.