

JULY 2024  
SOUTHERN 14

# NEWSLETTER



## Success Story

When Heather Watkins came into our office here in Karnak, she had the aura of someone who knew what she wanted and was going to get it! She said she had always liked to travel and see new things and places, so she figured why not get paid while doing something I like? She had enrolled in Shawnee Community College's Truck Driving training program for the fall 2023 semester thinking it was the perfect answer for her.

As a kid growing up in Cairo, Illinois, Heather said she had a good childhood. Her parents divorced when she was a baby, but worked together in raising her and her older brother up right and instilled greatness and integrity in the two of them. Her mother worked at USEC in Paducah, Kentucky. In order to be closer to her work, she moved the family to Massac County, Illinois when Heather started eighth grade. Heather got into some trouble when she was young and went to prison from ages 17-21. She got her GED while she was incarcerated. When she returned home she was determined to put all that behind her and move forward with her life.

Heather did very well in her training at Shawnee Community College. She told me that she decided to learn on the manual trucks instead of the automatic ones. She thought it may help her in finding work if she was capable of driving both. She was one of the earliest students in her class who was ready to test for her CDL at the DMV in Marion. She currently has her tanker endorsement and is working on her HazMat endorsement.

Heather was hired in late April as an over-the-road driver with DOT Foods out of Mt. Sterling, Illinois. She is currently in training and loving every minute of it! She has been driving with a seasoned driver and says she learns something new every day! She can't wait until she gets a truck and route of her own!

Heather said getting her CDL is a great sense of achievement and satisfaction for her. She and her father were extremely close. She lost him and a very good friend in 2021. She knows they are both looking down on her from heaven with pride for all her accomplishments.

Submitted by Cindy Arthur, Career Planner at Shawnee Development Council

## OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: September 10, 2024
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: SIC Building G or Via Zoom

## BOARD OFFICE:

- Open M-TR: 8-5
- PO BOX 186 Carmi, IL 62821
- Phone: 618-382-5024



## WADI MONTHLY UPDATE

July 16th Ryan T presented to the WADI Headstart program to help facilitate referrals. During the summer, WADI has had three RN students, two radiology students and one diesel technology student graduate. WADI currently has 10 youth and 3 adults completing Work Experience contracts which includes the Wayne County Coroner, Village of Enfield, City of Grayville, City of Eldorado, Greater Wabash Area Regional Planning, Raylen James Marketing, Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Beck's Drugs, Victorian on Main, and WADI offices. Amy Siedel is one of WADI's new career planners. She has take on Hamilton and White county duties. Ryan and his staff are also participating in the board Policy Revision Task Force.

## SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

SDC WIOA has 30 students enrolled in the summer semester. They are also beginning to take applications for the fall semester that begins August 12th. The State Grant Work Experience component ended June 30th. SDC has moved those participants to either Adult or Dislocated Worker. As of July 15h, SDC had 4 participants who completed the Quest Grant Work Experience. They have one Quest worker who began on July 18th and have three more beginning soon. SDC has 4 Youth In-School Work Experience participants. SDC has at least one WEX in each of their 7 counties. On July 17th, Victor met with potential WIOA participants at SIC. The SDC WIOA program has hired Ja'Mia Purdiman as their new WEX coordinator and billing clerk.

## SOUTHERN 14 UPDATES

We have been tasked with reviewing our local policies through an equity lens. The Policy Revision Taskforce will undertake meeting twice per month in June, July, and August to revise and create local policies that are compliant with state standards. We are working diligently to complete this task and we are happy to report three new draft polices have been created along with several draft updates to existing polices and forms. These policies will be taken to our September board meeting for board approval. A new Occupational Therapy Assistant program is coming to Shawnee Community College. Jessica has worked with the Career Services Coordinator to get this program pending in IWDS. After board approval, this program will be available for students. Our Local Plan has been approved pending revisions that are due July 31st. State funding will continue this year. Pam has submitted a proposal for that as well as a proposal for some additional funding to help support Incumbent Worker projects. This month has been unprecedented in our office, with lots of deadlines, meetings, and community outreach!



## CHANGES?

- Have you moved?
- Changed phone number?
- New email?
- Please notify the board office at [boffice@so14lwib.com](mailto:boffice@so14lwib.com) with any changes
- It is extremely important to let us know because of travel and communication!  
Thanks!!

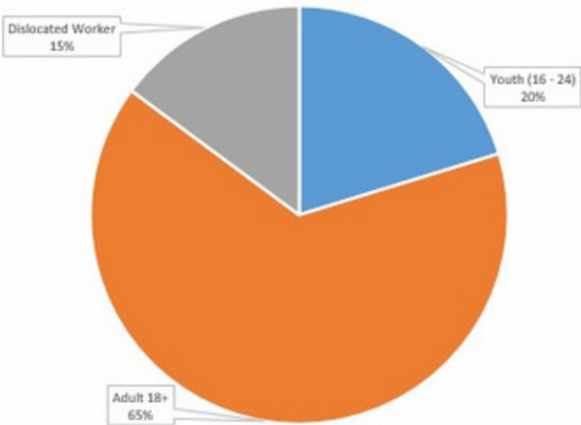


# Participant Data

In PY23 (July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024) we served 222 individuals.

County of Residence	Number of Individual Served	Percentage of Individuals Served
Alexander County	22	9.9%
Edwards County	6	2.7%
Gallatin County	2	0.9%
Hamilton County	5	2.3%
Hardin County	9	4.1%
Johnson County	18	8.1%
Massac County	32	14.4%
Pope County	10	4.5%
Pulaski County	29	13.1%
Saline County	44	19.8%
Union County	27	12.2%
Wabash County	5	2.3%
Wayne County	8	3.6%
White County	5	2.3%

Individuals Served July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



- Release date of June 27, 2024

## INFORMATION:

- Each issue you will see rotating information and data to keep you all informed in different ways!
- Like to see something included in the monthly newsletter?
- Email [boffice@so14lwib.com](mailto:boffice@so14lwib.com)

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

Labor Market Area	May 2024	May 2023	Over-the-Year Change
<b>Carbondale MSA</b>	<b>4.6 %</b>	<b>4.2 %</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Jackson County	4.5 %	4.2 %	0.3
Williamson County	4.6 %	4.2 %	0.4
<b>Surrounding Counties</b>			
Alexander County	6.2 %	5.6 %	0.6
Franklin County	5.6 %	5.2 %	0.4
Johnson County	6.2 %	5.3 %	0.9
Massac County	5.1 %	4.7 %	0.4
Perry County	5.5 %	5.0 %	0.5
Pulaski County	8.0 %	7.3 %	0.7
Randolph County	4.3 %	3.8 %	0.5
Union County	5.0 %	4.6 %	0.4
<b>Harrisburg Area</b>			
Gallatin County	5.4 %	5.5 %	-0.1
Hamilton County	3.8 %	3.5 %	0.3
Hardin County	5.9 %	5.2 %	0.7
Pope County	4.5 %	3.8 %	0.7
Saline County	5.0 %	4.7 %	0.3
White County	4.2 %	4.1 %	0.1
<b>Olney - Mt. Carmel Area</b>			
Edwards County	4.6 %	4.9 %	-0.3
Lawrence County	5.3 %	4.8 %	0.5
Richland County	4.4 %	3.9 %	0.5
Wabash County	3.7 %	3.1 %	0.6
Wayne County	4.6 %	4.4 %	0.2
<b>Other Areas</b>			
LWIA 23	4.4 %	3.8 %	0.6
LWIA 24	4.3 %	3.9 %	0.4
LWIA 25	4.9 %	4.4 %	0.5
LWIA 26	4.9 %	4.5 %	0.4
Southern EDR	4.9 %	4.5 %	0.4

### Southern Illinois Highlights

#### Carbondale – Marion Area

The May 2024 unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. This was a +0.4 percentage point increase from the May 2023 rate of 4.2 percent. Employers in the region added +700 jobs year-over-year, including an increase in Government (+200) payrolls.

#### Surrounding Counties

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -25 jobs in May 2024 compared to a year ago.

Employment rose among Government (+75), Natural Resources-Mining (+75), Other Services (+50), Leisure-Hospitality (+50) and Information (+25) sector employers.

Employer payrolls were unchanged in the Professional-Business Services sector. Payrolls declined among employers in Construction (-100), Private Education-Health Services (-75), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75), Financial Activities (-25) and Manufacturing (-25).

#### Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm employment increased by +450 jobs in May 2024 compared to May 2023.

Employment gains were posted by employers in Private Education-Health Services (+250), Government (+150), Natural Resources-Mining (+100), Financial Activities (+50), Leisure-Hospitality (+25) and Information (+25).

No change was recorded in payrolls in the Professional-Business Services or Manufacturing sectors.

Employment declined among employers in Construction (-75), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-50) and Other Services (-25).

#### Olney – Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls expanded by +75 jobs in May 2024 compared to May 2023.

Payrolls increased among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (+75), Other Services (+25), Natural Resources-Mining (+25), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+25) and Leisure-Hospitality (+25) sectors.

Payroll employment was unchanged for employers in Government, Information, and Professional-Business Services.

In the region, employers in the Manufacturing (-75), Construction (-25) and Financial Activities (-25) sectors had a lower number of employees in May 2024 than in May 2023.