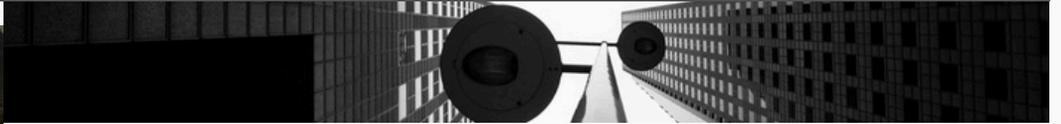


MARCH 2026

SOUTHERN 14

NEWSLETTER



Success Story

Ariana Sands at the age of 18 had been approved for the WIOA Program in pursuing a certificate in CNA for the Spring 2024 semester at Shawnee Community College. Ariana chose this career path because her mother and grandmother had been CNA's for almost 21 years. She says she had been inspired at a very young age and always loved helping people get better. Ariana states that the WIOA program helped her financially because her hours were cut. The conversations we had pushed her when she wanted to quit. She appreciated me following up with her life when she finished the program. When Ariana received her CNA certificate she got a job at Union County Hospital. Ariana says that working in the hospital gave her tons of experience and knowledge in the nursing field as she watched the nurses do their job. I get the opportunity to help people get back to themselves, I help when someone can't do it themselves and get better than they were before they came in. Ariana says that she honestly became a better version of herself during and after training because she realized anything that she does could prevent her from getting a good job and can prevent her from finishing school to become a CNA. She states, "I seem a lot happier when I'm helping people feel better as it it's my calling." Ariana adds, "You can do it if you put your mind and body to it. Don't overthink it and just do it. Don't stress yourself out and just focus on becoming a better person for yourself and your future. You got this!" Araina also wants to extend her appreciation to the SDC WIOA Program in saying, "I am thankful for the WIOA program".

OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: June 9th
- 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

Following the Champion Labs closure, WADI attended the Albion Chamber of Commerce Job Fair on March 4th where they spoke with about 100 dislocated workers. WADI also attended the Frontier Community College Rapid Response on March 5th, 6th and 9th. They are gathering their information and placing them in Work Experience or Career Education. With the help of Pam and Jessica, WADI has created an OJT partnership with MOTORAD out of Mt. Carmel to place 6 dislocated workers immediately. Concerning the Skillforge Program, WADI has 4 potential candidates to place in that as well.

SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

Spring 2026 semester classes started on January 12 but there are short term programs that start in February & March which include CNA, Phlebotomy, CDL, and EKG that depend on which SCC extension the classes will be held. SDC has 43 enrolled for the Spring so far, 15 are new enrollees. They are putting on WEX workers for the State WEX funds which will be enough for about 7 Adult workers. There are 3 employed at this time; one in Alexander County and 2 in Pulaski County. The process is ongoing. For the Out of School Youth WEX, SDC has 4 employed. There are 2 in Pope County, 1 in Union County, and 1 in Alexander County. The process is ongoing also.



CHANGES?

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

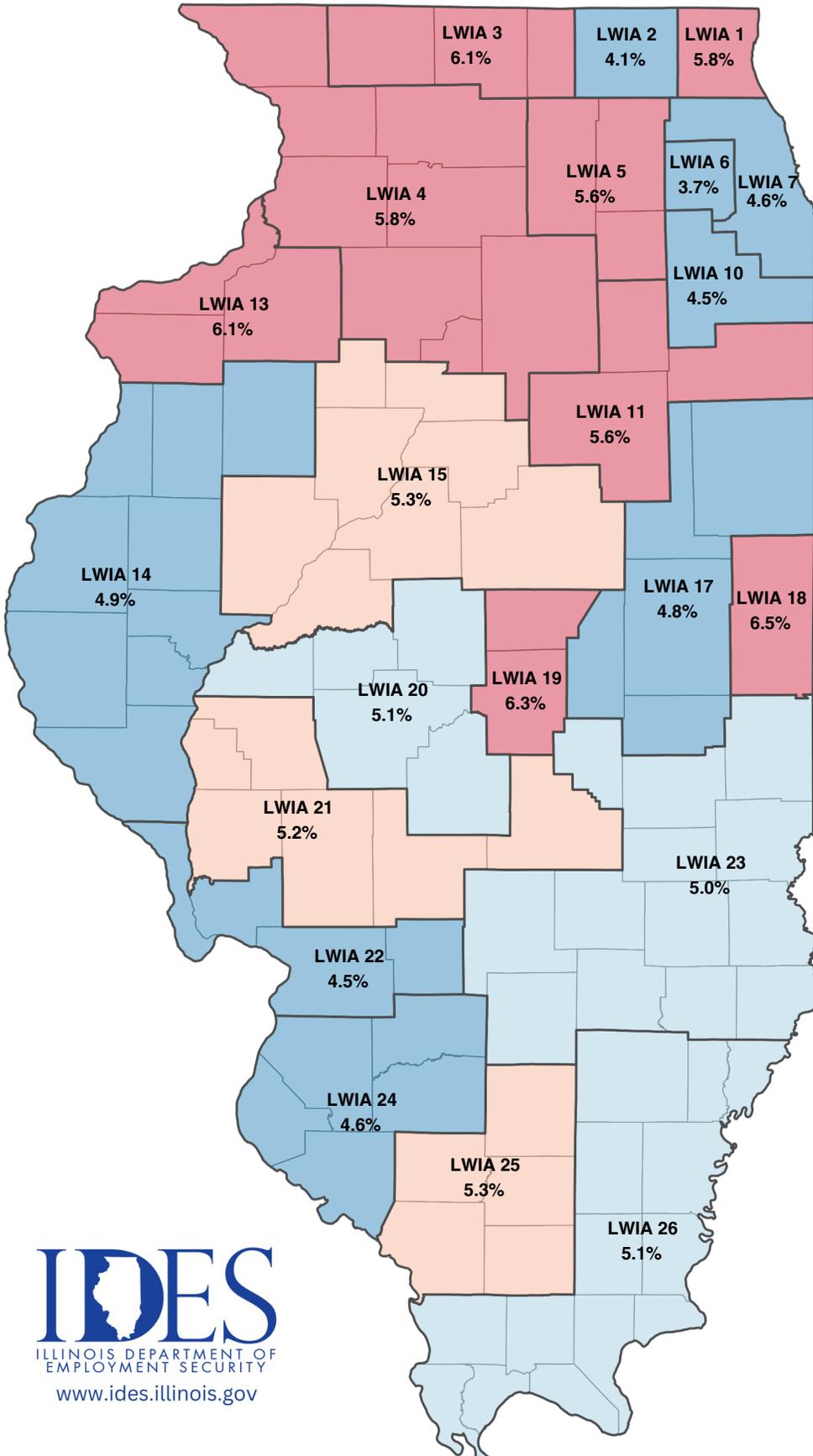
SOUTHERN 14 UPDATE

To say we have had a busy couple of weeks is an understatement. With no notice employees were notified that they would not be returning to work as Champ Labs was officially closing. This caused a flurry activity. We held a series of rapid response meetings for the affected employees giving them information. I have spent a large amount of time talking with employers who are potentially hiring those affected employees about WIOA options for them. We are going to do ten OJTs at Motorad and I anticipate quite a few others at different employers. At this moment we do have some dislocated funds remaining in our allocated funding, but I plan to request additional funding in our IE grant to be able to serve the need once we have a better idea of what the individuals may plan to do. This event will put a strain on not only the Board office staff, but also WADI staff, but I am confident that we are up for the challenge. IECC has offered to assist us by testing the individuals, this will alleviate about two hours of the career planner's time making the process more manageable.

Illinois Unemployment Rate by Local Workforce Innovation Area

December 2025 - Not Seasonally Adjusted

IL Dept. of Employment Security, Economic Information & Analysis Division



Unemployment Rates

	Seasonally Adjusted	Not Seasonally Adjusted
Illinois	4.6	4.8
United States	4.4	4.1

Unemployment Rate

