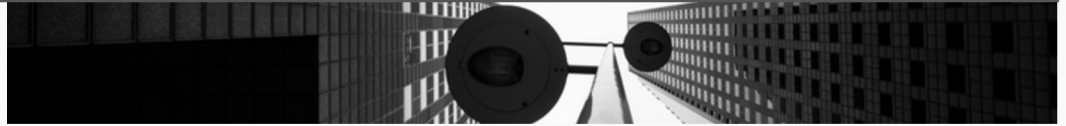


JULY 2026

SOUTHERN 14

NEWSLETTER



Success Story

In 2017, Sandy was laid off from her full-time job due to lack of work. She contacted the WIOA program at Shawnee Development Council and enrolled in classes for an associate's degree as an administrative assistant. She completed her studies and received her degree from Shawnee Community College in 2018.

Sandy then signed up for Work Experience with SDC's WIOA program. Her work site was at Shawnee Development Council's administrative office until 2020. She was doing a great job there which led to success. On June 1, 2020, she had applied and was offered a job as a career planner in the WIOA program.

Sandy has worked with the WIOA program for the last 6 years doing all that the WIOA program consists of and has become proficient in her job duties. She has also learned how the other programs at SDC work. This includes the LIHEAP, CSBG & Weatherization programs. She is very aware of what it takes to assist the people in the community and shows compassion for the work she does.

Beginning July 1, 2026, with the retirement of the current WIOA program manager, Sandy stepped into the role of WIOA program manager. SDC is very confident that her prior experiences will help her excel as a proficient Program Manager.

Submitted by : Victor Duckworth



OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting:
September 8th
- 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: 618-382-8869



WADI MONTHLY UPDATE

We currently have 24 Work Experience staff in place at various businesses throughout the 7 counties. Summer 2026 College enrollment stands at 20 participants in the following programs: 1 Accounting/Business; 1 CDL, 2 Cosmetology, 1 Criminal Justice, 7 Nursing, 2 Physical Therapy, 1 Occupational Therapy & 5 Certified Nursing Assistants. We currently have 9 OJT participants at MotoRad and 1 at Rides Mass transit. All of these individuals are from Champion Labs. We have 6 participants, also taking part in the Skillforge training. This is a manufacturing training course that includes OSHA, fork truck, electrical, mechanical, and fluid power systems certificates. FMH Pre Apprenticeship exploration has 8 participants in this program. It is a work experience where they work in 8 different areas of the hospital. We have 7 head start employees participating in the Early Childhood Education program at Wabash Valley College. They can earn a level 2 credential which is 18 credit hours or a level 3 credential which is 33 credit hours.

SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

On July 20th we will start doing applications for the Fall 2026 semester. The WIOA program has hired two new employees. On June 10 Heather Bingaman was hired to be the WEX Coordinator. and on June 22 David Davis was hired to be a Career Planner.

STATE grant is closed for WEX program on June 30th, and four WEX employees have ended. We have a total of seven employees on the WEX program 3 on YO, 3 DW and 1 Adult funding. These workers are on worksites in Alexander, Pulaski, Union, and Pope counties currently. We are looking at putting on more Youth and DWs.

Upcoming events happening this month include the Main Campus Resource Fair at SCC and the ADN Orientation.

SOUTHERN 14 UPDATE

We have sent out our Requests for Proposals for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. You can see those available on our website at www.so14lwib.com. The RFP will be due July 31, 2026. We anticipate bringing this to the committee for review before the September Board meeting. We were asked to make some changes to the Local Plan. Those changes will be presented at the board meeting for approval. All updates have been submitted as requested. It is time to start the board re-appointment process. 1/3 of our board is re-appointed each year. Please be on the lookout for that paperwork and submit it as soon as you can. We have completed our move! We are now in the SIC Carmi Building which is also our One Stop Center or Illinois WorkNet Center for LWIA 26. If anyone you know needs our services please send them to 1700 College Avenue Carmi, IL 62821 and we would be happy to assist them in WIOA services or utilize our new referral system to get them the assistance they need!



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!!

HOW TO SERIES:

In this series you will learn more about Illinois WorkNet and our partner programs!

Workforce & Education Partner Resources: [IllinoisworkNet.com/Partners](https://illinoisworknet.com/Partners)



Becoming an Illinois workNet partner is free and open to any organization in Illinois that provides resources and services to help individuals, employers, or others achieve their career, training, and employment goals.

Partner Programs
Assessments
Customer Support Center
Illinois workNet Learning Center <
Outreach Tools Articles
Helping Individuals Articles
Helping Employers Articles
WIOA Wednesday Webinars
Partner News & Events <
Resource Searches <
FAQs

Partners join a statewide network of workforce and education professionals. Illinois workNet tools and resources can easily be integrated into day-to-day activities to assist your organization and customers.

Online guides help partners find tools and resources in a central place. Step-by-step materials to help customers, staff, volunteers, and partners utilize tools.

Your organization can:

- Enhance community outreach.
- Promote events via the Event Calendar.
- Allow others to find your services in the Service Finder.
- Unlock resources and tools to guide students/customers.
- Track and monitor customer assessments through the Customer Support Center.
- Avoid reinventing the wheel by embedding widgets on your website.
- Be part of a network of professionals.

Become a Partner

1. Go to [IllinoisworkNet.com](https://illinoisworknet.com) to create or login to your account.
2. Check if your organization has a partner site in the Service Finder. If your organization isn't a partner yet, add your organization.
3. Request partner access by sending an email to info@illinoisworknet.com with the following information:
 - Reason: "I would like to request an Illinois workNet partner account."
 - First/Last Name as it appears on your Illinois workNet account.
 - Organization Name and Address as it appears in the Service Finder.

Need assistance or wondering if becoming a partner is right for you? Contact Illinois workNet!



Released: June 26 , 2026

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

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

Labor Market Area	May 2026	May 2025	Over-the-Year Change
Carbondale Area			
Jackson County	4.8%	4.1%	0.7
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	4.7%	4.2%	0.5
Hamilton County	4.0%	4.0%	0.0
Hardin County	4.2%	4.6%	-0.4
Pope County	5.7%	4.7%	1.0
Saline County	4.3%	4.0%	0.3
White County	4.6%	4.1%	0.5
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	9.6%	3.7%	5.9
Lawrence County	4.7%	3.8%	0.9
Richland County	4.0%	3.2%	0.8
Wabash County	4.8%	3.3%	1.5
Wayne County	4.9%	3.7%	1.2
Regional Counties			
Alexander County	6.1%	6.1%	0.0
Franklin County	4.7%	4.4%	0.3
Jefferson County	5.0%	4.3%	0.7
Johnson County	4.8%	4.5%	0.3
Massac County	4.2%	3.6%	0.6
Perry County	4.8%	4.3%	0.5
Pulaski County	5.6%	5.1%	0.5
Union County	4.2%	3.9%	0.3
Williamson County	4.0%	3.7%	0.3
Cities			
Carbondale City	5.4%	4.7%	0.7
Other Areas			
LWIA 23	3.9%	3.4%	0.5
LWIA 24	4.0%	3.5%	0.5
LWIA 25	4.6%	4.1%	0.5
LWIA 26	4.7%	4.0%	0.7
Southern EDR	4.6%	4.0%	0.6

Southern Illinois Highlights

Carbondale Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -425 jobs in May 2026, compared to May 2025.

Employment gains were posted in Government (+100) and Construction (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Leisure-Hospitality.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-200), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-125), Financial Activities (-50), Professional-Business Services (-50), Information (-25), Manufacturing (-25), Natural Resources-Mining (-25) and Other Services (-25) sectors.

Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -325 jobs in May 2026, compared to May 2025.

Employment gains were posted in Construction (+75), Financial Activities (+25) and Manufacturing (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Natural Resources-Mining and Professional-Business Services.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-225), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-100), Government (-50), Leisure-Hospitality (-50), Other Services (-50) and Information (-25) sectors.

Olney - Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls decreased by -1,000 jobs in May 2026, compared to May 2025.

Net job gains were not recorded in any sector between May 2025 and May 2026.

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Construction, Financial Activities, Information, Natural Resources-Mining and Professional-Business Services.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Manufacturing (-675), Private Education-Health Services (-125), Government (-75), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75), Leisure-Hospitality (-25) and Other Services (-25) sectors.