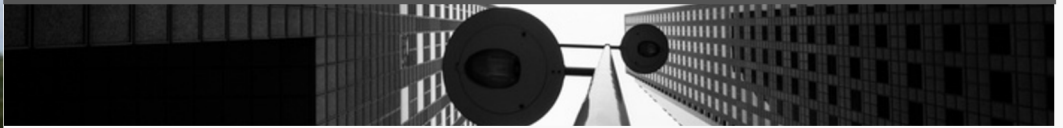


JANUARY 2025

SOUTHERN 14

NEWSLETTER



A Personal Journey to Success

Thomas Williams completed the Truck Driving training program through Shawnee Community College on May 10, 2024 but not before conquering some personal obstacles first. He dropped out of high school after his junior year and worked many jobs over the next 15 years, but none of them paid well or put him any closer to a successful career. He did manage to earn his GED in 2013.

On May 1, 2023, Thomas was sentenced to prison for drug related charges. He said he knows that experience saved his life. He sat in prison until January of the following year. He knew when he stepped out the front door back into freedom that he had to make some changes not only for himself but for his children & his family. They deserved better. He deserved better.

Later that same month, he contacted Shawnee Community College about enrolling into their truck driving training program and also applied for FAFSA. He was disappointed when he found out that FAFSA wasn't able to cover all of the expenses of the training. Just as he was honestly losing hope in making his future better, the Truck Driving Coordinator at the college, Kelly Jennings, asked him if he had signed up for WIOA yet. He told him he had never heard of it. Kelly gave him the number to Shawnee Development Council, along with some paperwork. Thomas called and made an appointment, and finally things started to fall into place. He came into the office, talked with a career planner, took a couple tests, & was determined eligible for services. He began his training in March, 2024 and did very well at every level of his training.

Since completing the program, he has obtained employment with River Valley Hauling in June, 2024 and is making great strides in getting his life where he wants it to be. He is trying to show his children as well as people who are down on their luck that they can succeed and that there is hope after making mistakes in your life. It doesn't have to be a revolving door between one bad decision and another. He knows firsthand what the WIOA program did for him and how it changed his life 100%. He wants others to benefit from it as well.

Thomas now works for a union with many benefits and the kind of pay that is providing a much easier way of life for himself and his family, including buying a home in July, 2024.

Submitted by Cindy Arthur, WIOA Career Planner/SDC

OFFICE NOTES:

- Upcoming Board Meeting: March 11th
- 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

WADI has two work experience participants currently. One is at Victorian on Main as a baker and the other is as the Wayne County WADI office as an outreach worker. They also have one student graduate from welding in December. WADI has 20 participants in traditional classroom training. Half of those students are nursing students. 17 students will graduate this spring! In December, Amy attended the WIOA Eligibility Training presented by Jim Potts in Effingham. WADI had a very successful monitoring and have submitted their response to the LWIB office. WADI attended the first MOU partner meeting and have submitted all the required documents thus far.

SDC MONTHLY UPDATE

SDC is working on enrolling students for the Spring 2025 semester which began on January 13th and 14th at Shawnee College and SIC respectively. They currently have 2 Youth In-School on Work Experience. One is in Alexander County and the other is in Pulaski County. SDC is working on adding 4 participants to the Quest grant and 4 to Youth Out of School. In the month of December, WIOA staff completed several meetings and trainings. Those included the WIOA Eligibility Training for newly hired in Effingham, the SDC annual safety training day, and on December 16th Victor and Denna both attended the DCEO exit conference. In January, SDC plans to attend the Business Services Team meeting through Southern 14 as well as the Advisory Council Meeting with Arrowleaf.

SOUTHERN 14 UPDATES

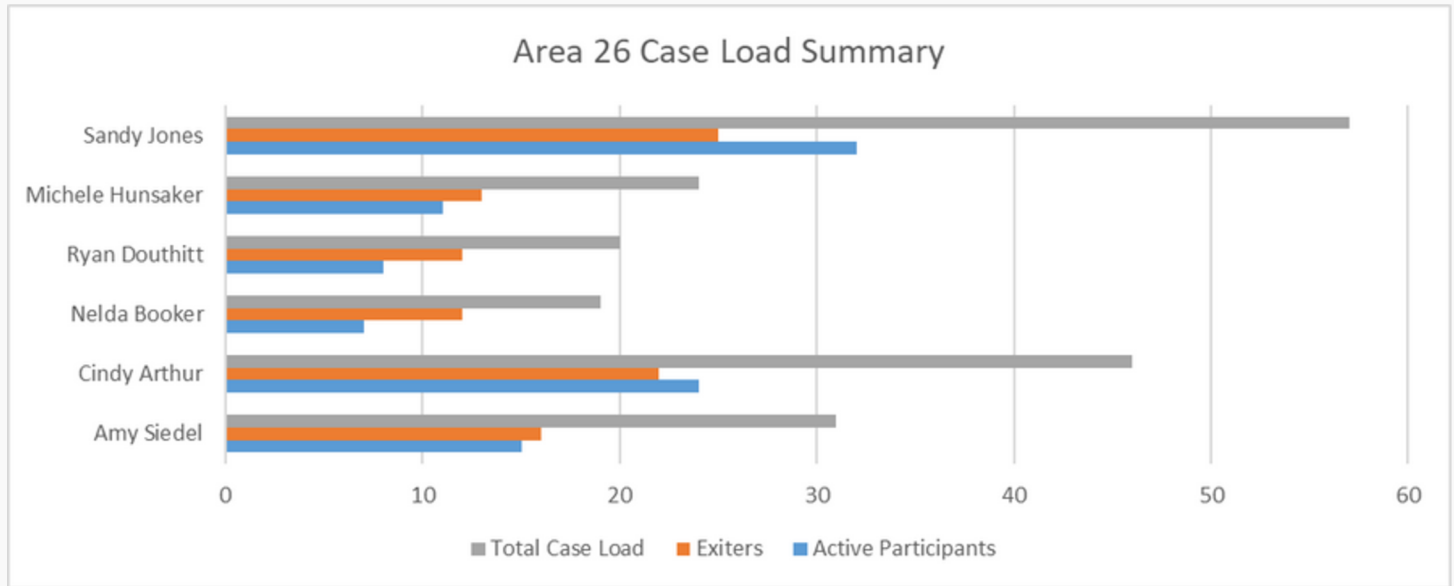
We are happy to announce the addition of two new business representatives on our board. Please welcome Shawn Healy from Its Time Solutions representing Gallatin County as well as Michael Belford with Belford's Heating and Air representing Hardin County. The Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board remains certified by the State of Illinois and eligible to receive Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds to help the residents of LWIA #26. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires that the local workforce board maintain a majority of their membership from the private business community. Our area has several open seats in multiple counties. If you live or work in one of our 14 counties and have any ideas on business leads please call our office! Our office is working on our monitoring response for DCEO. We also had our first MOU meeting on the 15th. It went well and we are working on updating that document to be approved at our next board meeting. On the 22nd, our office is holding an all day In-Service where we will focus on case noting and the service matrix. On the 23rd is our quarterly Business Services Team Meeting where Steven Dennis with IDHS will present.



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!!

LWIA 26 Case Load Summary



- Release date of December 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

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

Labor Market Area	Nov 2024	Nov 2023	Over-the-Year Change
Carbondale MSA	4.0 %	4.0 %	0.0
Jackson County	4.0 %	3.9 %	0.1
Williamson County	4.0 %	4.0 %	0.0
Surrounding Counties			
Alexander County	6.0 %	5.7 %	0.3
Franklin County	5.2 %	5.1 %	0.1
Johnson County	4.8 %	5.1 %	-0.3
Massac County	4.6 %	4.4 %	0.2
Perry County	5.1 %	4.8 %	0.3
Pulaski County	6.8 %	7.0 %	-0.2
Randolph County	3.7 %	3.6 %	0.1
Union County	4.4 %	5.0 %	-0.6
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	4.4 %	4.8 %	-0.4
Hamilton County	3.3 %	3.6 %	-0.3
Hardin County	5.4 %	5.4 %	0.0
Pope County	3.7 %	3.5 %	0.2
Saline County	4.6 %	4.6 %	0.0
White County	4.1 %	3.8 %	0.3
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	3.9 %	4.4 %	-0.5
Lawrence County	5.2 %	4.9 %	0.3
Richland County	3.6 %	4.2 %	-0.6
Wabash County	3.1 %	3.3 %	-0.2
Wayne County	4.6 %	4.7 %	-0.1
Other Areas			
LWIA 23	4.0 %	4.0 %	0.0
LWIA 24	3.9 %	3.9 %	0.0
LWIA 25	4.4 %	4.3 %	0.1
LWIA 26	4.4 %	4.5 %	-0.1
Southern EDR	4.4 %	4.4 %	0.0

Southern Illinois Highlights

Carbondale – Marion Area

The November 2024 unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. This was the same unemployment rate as in November 2023. Employers in the region added +800 jobs year-over-year, including an increase in Government (+200) payrolls.

Surrounding Counties

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -75 jobs in November 2024 as compared to a year earlier.

Employers in the Leisure-Hospitality (+75), Manufacturing (+50), Information (+25) and Other Services (+25) sectors added jobs during the year.

No change in total employment was reported by employers in the Natural Resources-Mining, Construction, Financial Activities or Government sectors year-over-year. Payrolls decreased year-over-year in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-100), Private Education-Health Services (-75) and Professional-Business Services (-25).

Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm employment increased by +275 jobs in November 2024 compared to November 2023.

Employment gains were posted by employers in the Private Education-Health Services (+175), Government (+150), Financial Activities (+50), Information (+50), Natural Resources-Mining (+25) and Manufacturing (+25) sectors.

No change was recorded in payrolls in the Professional-Business Services sector. Employment declined among employers in the Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-100), Construction (-25), Leisure-Hospitality (-25) and Other Services (-25) sectors.

Olney – Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +150 positions between November 2023 and November 2024.

Payrolls increased among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (+75), Government (+75) and Other Services (+25) sectors.

Payroll employment was unchanged for employers in the Natural Resources-Mining, Professional-Business Services and Trade-Transportation-Utilities sectors. Employers in the Construction (-25), Manufacturing (-25), Information (-25), Financial Activities (-25) and Leisure-Hospitality (-25) sectors shed jobs between November 2023 and November 2024.