



Working with Workforce

The North Iowa Regional Career Fair held Wednesday, April 2 at North Iowa Area Community College hosted more than 75 regional businesses with over 550 attending. Those attending included: 12 local school districts, NIACC students and community members to learn more about the regional employment and internship opportunities and training options. This event was made possible due to the partnership with NIACC, IowaWORKS and the I-AM team.



Strengthening Industry Partnerships

Indian Hills Community College was recently a part of an event held by Co-Line Welding, Inc. to help increase regional awareness of advanced manufacturing career opportunities. The event allowed an opportunity for Co-Line to provide tours and demonstrations in their Lynnville facility. In attendance were K-12 educators and administrators, community college and other industry representatives. The meeting also provided an opportunity for IHCC staff to discuss the I-AM grant initiative and the statewide "Elevate" outreach campaign.

Changes to Grant Staff

Thank you to Emily Willett (NIACC's I-AM Grant Coordinator) and Stacy Taylor (DMACC Curriculum Specialist) for their hard work on the I-AM Grant over the past year. Both will serve their final day on Friday, May 2.

I-AM Consortium Staff Members

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Credit for Prior Learning

Dorothy Wax, Associate Vice President of Career Services CAEL, provided two Advisor Training Sessions, for I-AM Consortium members. The training was held April 9th at Kirkwood with 20 individuals attending and April 10th at Iowa Western with 11 attendees. The session covered the following topics:

1. An overview of the need for lifelong learning
2. Adult Learning Theory
3. Advising Adult Students
4. Prior Learning Assessment

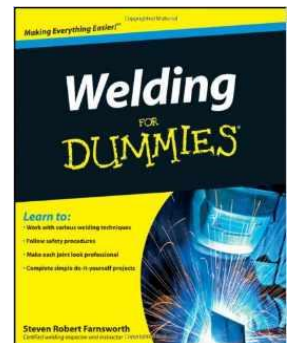
The training sessions provided practical, hands-on exercises and tools that consortium members can use to advise adult learners on credit for prior learning opportunities within each of our community colleges.

Next on the agenda for the Credit for Prior Learning Committee will be two consecutive workshops on Portfolio Development. These training dates are June 9th and June 30th, both occurring at DMACC's Ankeny campus.

CAEL and Iowa Western personnel will co-lead the sessions. The first Portfolio Session will focus on the basics: when to use, how to document, and elements of a portfolio system. Attendees will leave with a planning guide to take back to their colleges and fill out for Session Two. This follow-up meeting will focus on institutions sharing their findings, sharing resources, and planning to move institutions forward.

Fun Fact

Retired Iowa Lakes Community College Welding Professor, Steve Farnsworth, wrote and published the book, "Welding for Dummies." Current Welding Instructor, Emily Gottsche, was the technical editor for the book.



Sharing Best Practices

Western Iowa Tech Community College recently held an NCRC testing event in which no technology or tool became a barrier to students. A week prior to testing, staff members took participants through the registration process, and tested their log-ins to be certain they wouldn't have any challenges on testing day. The testing center made sure they could accommodate 10 students at a time by reserving them after students signed up. When the students arrived for testing WIT staff (from another department) even provided calculators for students to use during the test.

I-AM Quarterly Newsletter

April 2014

Year 2, Issue 2

Current "Elevate" Campaign Details

Elevate Iowa Website Stats:

- 7,905 Visits
- 5,904 Unique Visitors
- 20,091 Page Views

Most Popular Pages:

- Iowa Manufacturing
- News & Events
- Self-Assessment Guide
- Training & Career Pathways
- Testimonials
- Career Pathways

Geography of Visitors:

- 4,853 – Iowa
- 532 – Minnesota
- 447 – Nebraska
- 442 – Wisconsin
- 336 – Illinois

Top Referrals:

- Facebook/Google Ads
- ABI
- NIACC
- Iowa Western
- Kirkwood



Social Media

- 267 Facebook Likes
- 76 Twitter Followers

Facebook Fan: Age

- 34% - Ages 35-44
- 31% - Ages 25-34
- 17% - Ages 45-54
- 11% - Ages 18-25
- 5.4% - Ages 55+

Facebook Fan: Gender

- 59% Male
- 40% Female

Save the Dates!

- April 30: Due Date for Employer Partners Welding Survey
- May 6: Statewide Welding Meeting #1 – Des Moines, IA
- May 21: I-AM Lead & Chairs Quarterly Meetings (DMACC)
- May 23: Deadline for August Job Profiler Registration
- May 28: Statewide Welding Meeting #2 – Des Moines, IA
- June 6: CAEL Workshop #1 – Ankeny, IA
- June 9 – 11: ABI's Annual Conference - Cedar Rapids, IA
- June 30: CAEL Workshop #2 – Ankeny, IA



Pictured above: Iowa Valley Community College District's Plasma Table

A Message from the Director

Spring is finally upon us and with that has come a flurry of activity around the consortium. I am excited about the opportunity to meet with each of your I-AM teams to learn about specific activities on your campuses. Great things are happening across the consortium! From encouraging student success stories, to establishment of Accredited Testing Facilities, I-AM is positively impacting students across the state. We are doing very well by all counts, including our count of over 1,300 participants to date! I look forward to seeing the progress these students make in completing certificates and degrees as we continue through 2014. As always, thank you for your participation and all the good work being done in the name of I-AM!

Best,

Stephanie Ferraro

ELEVATE

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Request for Student Spotlight

In upcoming outreach efforts we would like to feature students who are currently enrolled in a signature program. We ask that you please seek written permission from the student and, where possible, provide the following information:

- Name
- Hometown
- Program of study
- What were they doing prior to training?
- Are they a minority? U.S. Veteran? TAA? Woman?
- Do they have an interesting story about why they sought training?
- Are they currently working?
- What do they plan to do after program completion?

We would also appreciate an approved photo of them in class, in a lab, at work, or with something they created. Please send these to Susan Metheny (semetheny@dmacc.edu).