# Compendium:

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS

Board Newsletter, September 2021

Dear Board Members:

A ceremony was held September 17 to unveil a new welding registered apprenticeship created by Northeast Indiana Works and Garrett High School.

## Apprenticeship Program Unveiled At Garrett High School

Forty juniors and seniors have signed up for the paid apprenticeship. Another 38 sophomores at Garrett are waiting in the wings.

**John Delgado**, state director of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship, spoke at the ceremony, as did Northeast Indiana Works President and CEO **Edmond O'Neal**.

The up to three-year welding apprenticeship, approved by the DOL, is an extension of an existing State Earn and Learn (SEAL) career development welding program at Garrett. It is just the third registered apprenticeship in Indiana supported by a workforce development board – in this case Northeast Indiana Works, which is an approved apprenticeship intermediary. It will also be the largest contingent of students participating among the three programs statewide; the other two involve apprenticeships in precision machining and Certified Nurse Aide.

Before departing the state's Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship, **Matt Presley** assisted **Chad Sutton**, director of career development at Garrett High, and **Kimberly Tempel**, Northeast Indiana Works' senior director of business services/human resources, in developing the registered apprenticeship.

"This DOL youth welding apprenticeship program with Garrett High School serves as a model for all Indiana regional Workforce Development Boards on how to best collaborate, engage employers, and build high-quality work-based learning opportunities for students that will launch careers," Presley said. "Congratulations to Northeast Indiana Works and Garrett High School for outstanding collaboration on building a high-quality registered apprenticeship program that delivers skilled welders to northeast Indiana, supports employers in their efforts to sustain and grow business, and expands skill development and career opportunities for students."

The competency-based apprenticeship will include at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning and a minimum of 634 hours of related instruction provided by Ivy Tech Community College at Garrett High School. Apprentices completing the program will have demonstrated proficiency in 42 competencies, earned a number of industry-recognized certificates, and acquired 21 Ivy Tech college credits.

Said Tempel: "Northeast Indiana Works is committed to driving collaboration to solve workforce challenges and registered apprenticeships are an important part of that. We look forward to helping lead similar local efforts with other partners in northeast Indiana."

**Healthcare Consortium Formed:** Northeast Indiana Works has formed a healthcare consortium to assist the region's healthcare industry in filling its talent pipelines.

Among the entities agreeing thus far to participate in the consortium are IU Health, Lutheran Health, Parkview Health, all five of the region's Career and Technical Education (CTE) districts, Freedom Academy, Ivy Tech Community College, the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, the Region 8 Education Service Center, Trine University, and University of Saint Francis. Invitations have been extended to other healthcare providers and educational institutions.

It is anticipated the consortium will meet for the first time in October.

The scope of the consortium's work will evolve, but initially there will be a focus on creating career awareness, exploring access to training, and making available work-based learning opportunities, such as apprenticeships.

Healthcare is the second largest employing industry in northeast Indiana and has struggled for a number of years in filling important positions, both at the entry level and at higher levels of professional achievement.

"By bringing everyone together on this, it is hoped we can collaboratively develop strategies to support the talent needs of the healthcare industry," said **Rick Farrant**, director of communications for Northeast Indiana Works.

**WIOA Support Grant Targets Initiatives**: Northeast Indiana Works will receive a $340,000 WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) support grant to fund a variety initiatives and activities.

Among the items that will be funded through the grant: Information technology professional development, projects supporting African-Americans, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) support, the addition of an apprenticeship coordinator, and outreach to promote the services of Northeast Indiana Works and WorkOne Northeast.

**Banks Job Fair Attracts 150 Jobseekers**: U.S. Rep. **Jim Banks**, R-IN, in conjunction with WorkOne Northeast, Northeast Indiana Works and Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW), hosted a job fair August 4 that drew 70 companies and more than 150 jobseekers.

The job fair, held at PFW, was conducted in person. It was a virtual event in 2020.

**O'Neal Helps Select New Partnership Leader**: Northeast Indiana Works' president and CEO was on the search committee that recently selected ***Stephane Frijia*** as the new president and CEO of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership.

"Stephane Frijia is an experienced, decisive leader ready to help bolster the economic fortunes of northeast Indiana," said O'Neal. "His commitment to data-driven strategies and collaborative planning should fit nicely in a region dedicated to laser-focused teamwork."

(*The next board meeting after the October session will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. January 7, 2021. It is yet to be decided if it will be virtual or in-person.)*