Outreach Tools to Connect Students to the Workforce

FORUM FOR Excellence
Illinois Community College Board
Career Technical and Adult Education: Building Pathways for All Students

September 22, 2023

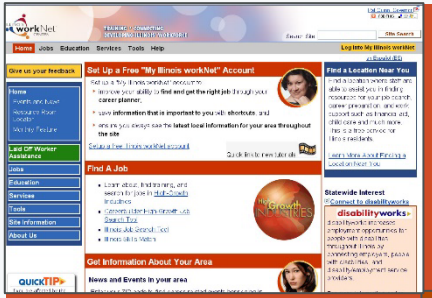
Outreach Tools to Connect Students to the Workforce

Agenda:

- Intro to Illinois workNet
- Partner Tools to Enhance Outreach Efforts
- “Significant Events”
- Brainstorm: Partner Up!
- Wrap-Up
- Q&A

Illinois workNet: Evolution

- As technology progresses, so does the portal.



LAUNCHED IN 2005

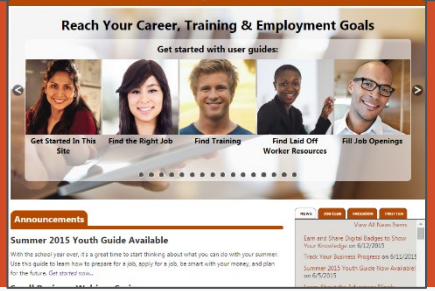
- by the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board.
- State's web portal for workforce development.

CONNECTS

The portal connects individuals, employers, education and workforce partners to career planning, education and training, and employment tools.

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICES

Tools connect users to statewide in-person and online services. We assist job seekers, employers, and community organizations daily via the Help Desk.



2023-BEYOND

What does the future hold? Input from partners like you helps shape site updates and needs.

Illinois workNet: Benefits Students and Instructors

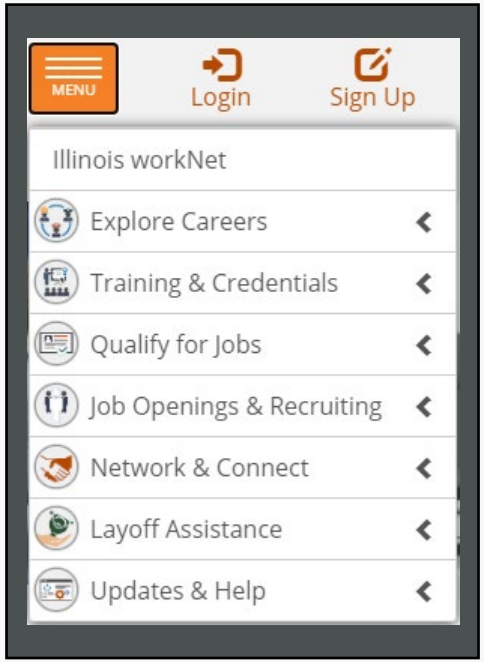
ALL RESOURCES ARE FREE!

STUDENTS: access resources and tools to explore careers, training, and skills needed to reach their training and employment goals.

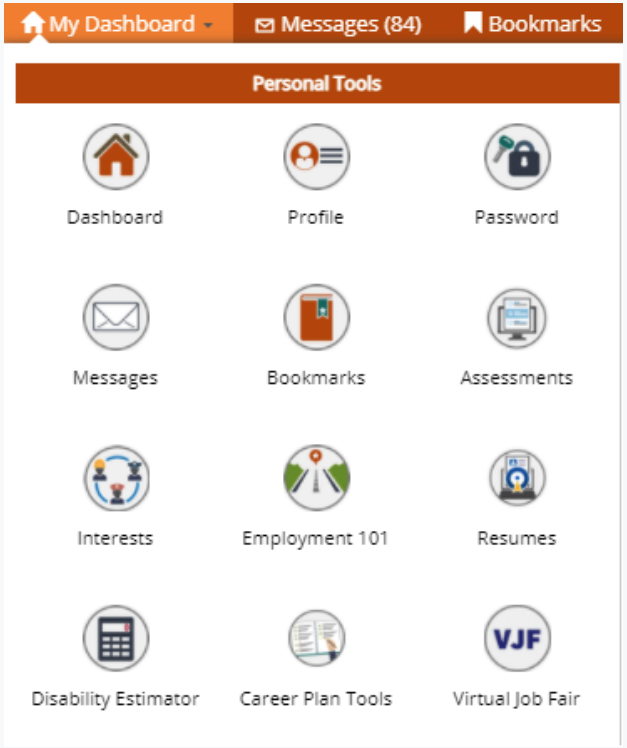
INSTRUCTORS/Partners: access the same resources and tools in addition to instructor guides and partner tools to recover passwords, view student assessments, plans, saved resumes, and more.

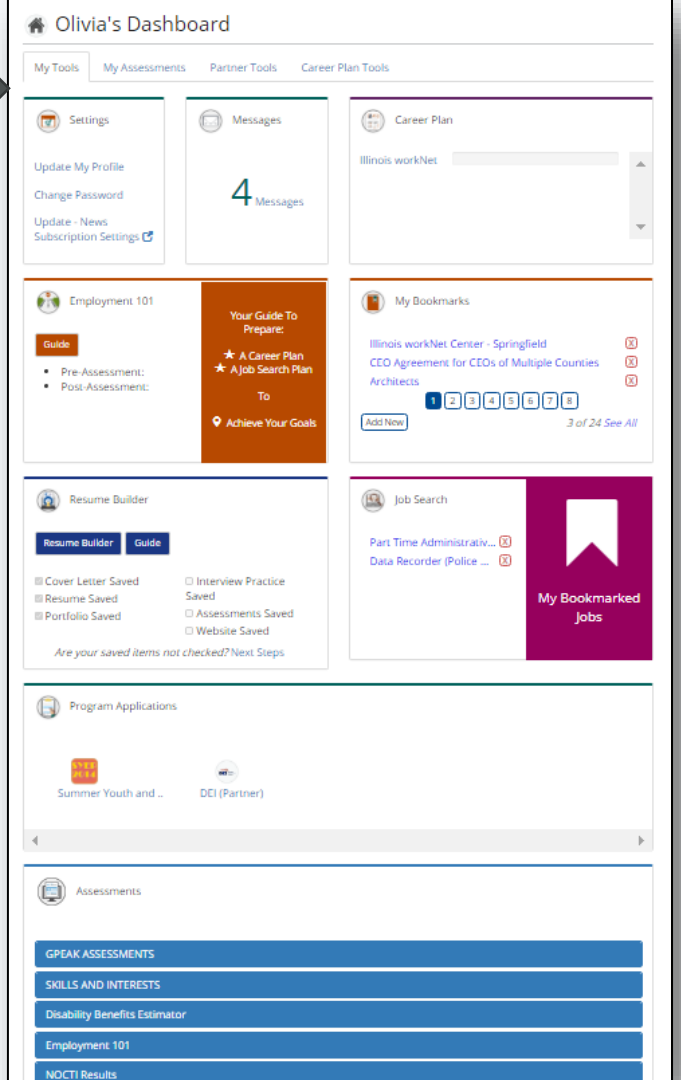
CUSTOMER SUPPORT CENTER (CSC): create a group to track students' progress through the career planning process.

Illinois workNet: Tools & Resources



ILLINOIS WORKNET: DASHBOARD





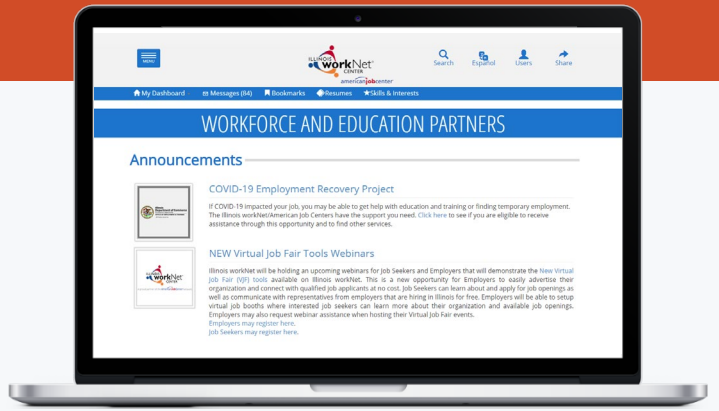
PARTNER PAGE

Illinois workNet Partners can access information specifically to help assist students in meeting their employment and training goals.

A variety of guides specific to tools can help facilitate students' success.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Access to Global Partner Tools
- ✓ Program Guide for Partners
- ✓ Access to Illinois Initiatives
- ✓ Assessment Information
- ✓ Customer Support Center/Illinois Workforce Integration System (IWIS)
- ✓ And More



Illinois workNet: **Benefits**

- Becoming A Partner
- 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

Benefits:

- Join a network of workforce and education partners.
- 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 individuals' assessments through the Customer Support Center.
- Avoid reinventing the wheel by embedding widgets on your website.

Outreach Tools

SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT

CREATE A SITE IN SERVICE FINDER

UNLOCK PARTNER TOOLS

ADD EVENTS TO THE CALENDAR

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTERS

SUBMIT SUCCESS STORY

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

ACCESS OUTREACH MATERIALS

Significant Events List

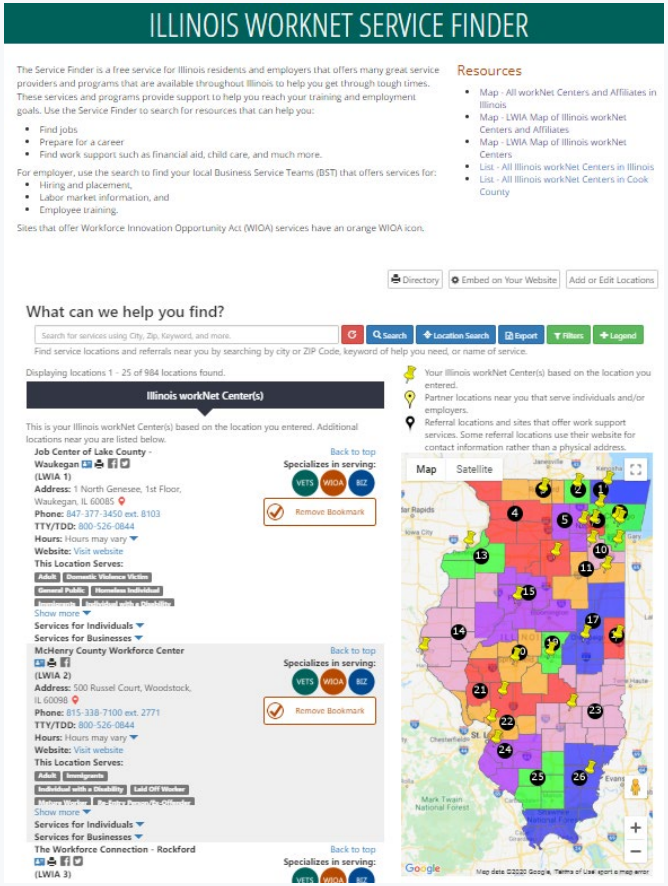
Background: This list contains notable national and statewide awareness campaigns (days, weeks, months) applicable to workforce development that Illinois workNet refers to as "Significant Events." Annual events are utilized to plan content topics on Illinois workNet to acknowledge, celebrate, and raise awareness.

Please Note: This list is current as of the date in the Header. This document is intended to provide a *general* overview and may change (updates, removals, additions). Dates vary each year. Visit the applicable website for each event to learn more details and dates. For questions or concerns, please contact Illinois workNet via email at info@IllinoisworkNet.com.

Event	Date(s)
National Mentoring Month	January
Career & Technical Education Month	February
Women's History Month	March
SBDC Day	March March 15, 2023 March 20, 2024
Financial Literacy Month	April
National Volunteer Week	April April 16-22, 2023
Second Chance Month	April
National Small Business Week	April 30-May 6, 2023
National Construction Week	May May 1-5, 2023
National Foster Care Moth	May
National Military Appreciation Month	May
Older Americans Month	May
Mental Health Awareness Month	May
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month	June
National Safety Month	June
Juneteenth	June 19th
National Black Business Month	August
National Workforce Development Month	September
National Support Latino Business Day	September 14th

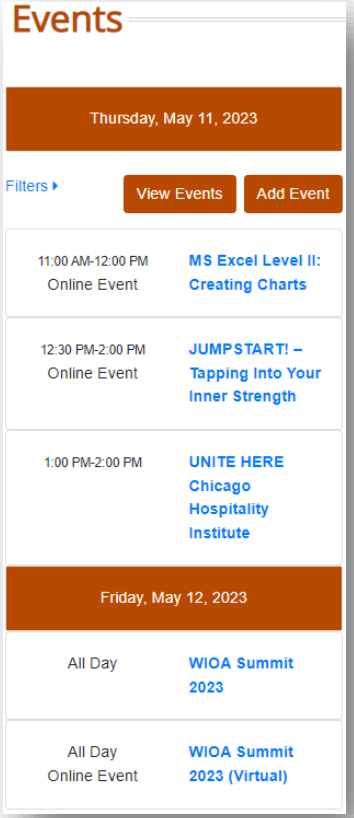
CHECK YOUR FOLDER FOR THE HANDOUT.

ILLINOIS WORKNET SERVICE FINDER



- Job Seekers search for resources to help find jobs, prepare for a career, and work support such as financial aid, childcare, and more.
- Employers use the search to find Business Service Teams that offer services such as hiring and placement, LMI, and employee training.
- Sites can be added to display their location and services for others to find.

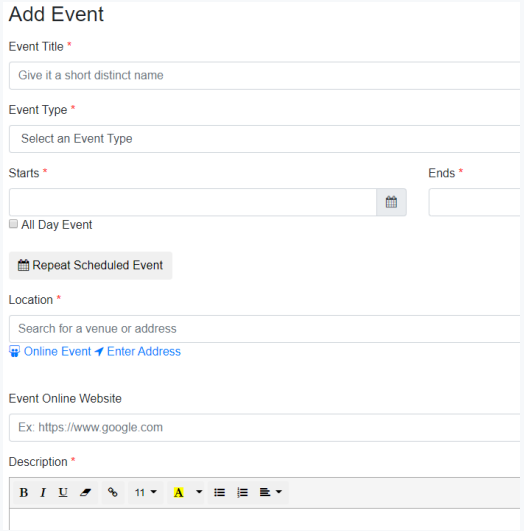
EVENT CALENDAR

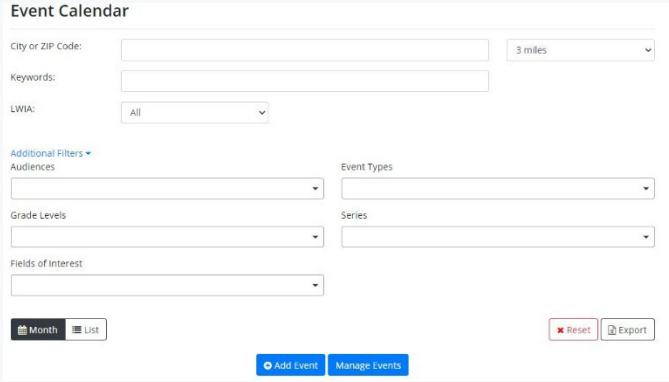


- View and add events through the calendar app on the homepage or click “Add Events”.

- Filters allow users to search by:
  - City or Zip Code
  - Audience Type
  - Event Type
  - Keywords

- View all upcoming events in the workNet calendar by clicking “View Events.”



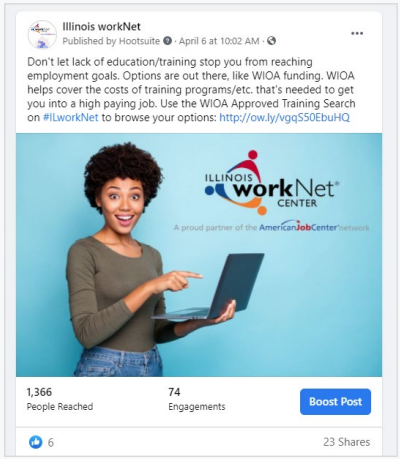


Newsletters – Subscribe to Stay in the Know

- There are several newsletter topics to subscribe to.

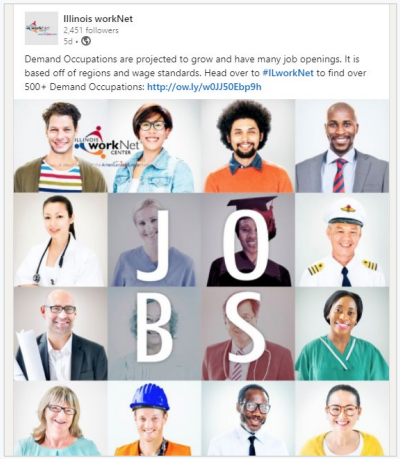
ILLINOIS WORKNET SOCIAL MEDIA

Illinois workNet reaches all types of users through various social media platforms!

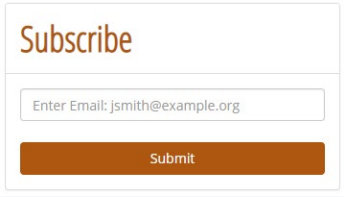


ILLINOIS WORKNET FACEBOOK

ILLINOIS WORKNET TWITTER

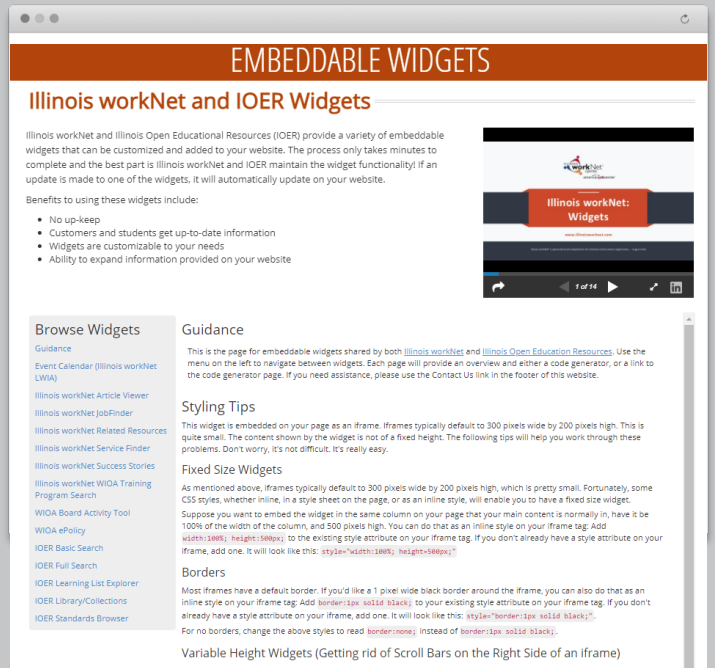


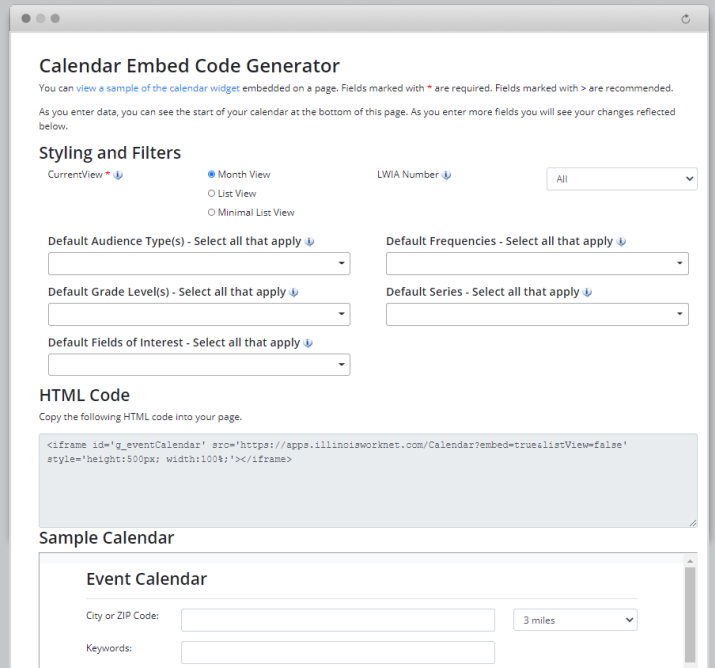
ILLINOIS WORKNET LINKEDIN



ILLINOIS WORKNET WIDGETS

Illinois workNet provides embeddable widgets that partners can customize to add to their websites. The process only takes a few minutes to complete, and the best part is that Illinois workNet maintains the functionality of the widget! If an update is made to the widget, it automatically updates the app on your website.





Brainstorm – Partner Up: Group Work Time!

5 MINUTES

Choose a “Significant Event” from the handout, then discuss.

Significant Event Name: _____

When: _____

How can your organization support and/or apply this to current outreach efforts?

What partnerships could be utilized and/or established?

What Illinois workNet tool(s) could be used and how?

Share **Your** **Feedback**.

- Let your voice be heard. Your thoughts and experiences matter.

ANONYMOUS

The survey doesn't ask for your contact information, only your opinion.

ACCESSIBLE ON ANY DEVICE

Use a smartphone, tablet, or computer.

RATE, TYPE, DONE

7 easy questions to answer in *less than* 3 minutes.

INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS IN THE TEXTBOX

- What do you like and dislike about the website?
- Do you struggle to locate information/tools?
- What do your students say?
- Can a tool, content, or resource help your daily work?

WHAT'S THE POINT?

- Feedback provides an insight into what works vs. doesn't work, areas to improve, and which content and tools to update.
- Results are collected and shared with stakeholders, used in state and federal reports, and referenced for future enhancements.

Feedback Survey: Surveymonkey.com/r/LworkNetSurvey

How Can Illinois workNet Support You? Your Work? Your Students?

Submit a Contact Us Form.

Take the User Feedback Survey.

Email Me Directly.

We are here to help!

Let's Talk. Q&A.

Do you have any questions?

Want to know more about something? Just ask.

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