

**Illinois Department of Employment Security
Economic Information and Analysis Division**

PY13 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

1. Populate the Workforce Information Database (WIDb) with state and local data.

The WIDb provides a common structure for storing information in a single database in each state. Illinois maintains its WID at the required 2.5 version and populates all core tables and numerous non-core tables as well. Illinois is part of the LMI Informer consortium of six states led by Montana. This database supports informed job searches, career choices, and employer services through the search engine on the IDES website.

<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

- ▶ Reviewed and posted statewide 2012-2022 long-term industry and occupational employment projections. Posted on the Employment Projections page at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/lmi>. The preliminary projections were reviewed by major employers in local area representing diverse, key Illinois industries such as construction, manufacturing and healthcare. The comments from these reviewers were used to make adjustments to the final projections product.
- ▶ Reviewed and posted statewide 2013-2015 short-term industry and occupational employment projections. The preliminary projections were reviewed by major employers in local area representing diverse, key Illinois industries such as construction, manufacturing and healthcare. The comments from these reviewers were used to make adjustments to the final projections product.
- ▶ Distributed the projections report to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and posted on the Employment Projections page at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/lmi>.
- ▶ An extensive external review of the substate 2010-2020 long-term industry employment projections for Illinois' reconfigured Local Workforce Areas (see <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/custom/library/statistic/EmploymentProjections/DefinitionsOfWorkforceInvestmentAreas.html>) was completed by the end of 2013.
- ▶ Customer contact via email or phone for assistance with the analysis and interpretation of the projections results
- ▶ Automated data processing stream: comparison of current industry projections with benchmarks, application of external reviewer adjustments to preliminary projections, converting the output file from the Projections Suite to IDES website publication format.
- ▶ With funding from the Workforce Innovation Fund grant and in partnership with Utah software development staff, developed the Local Review Software. This software automates the external review and adjustment of local industry projections. Reviewers will review historical employment and summary statistics for an industry in their local area, as well as the preliminary projection. Reviewers will adjust the preliminary projection and document their reasoning. The software transmits this adjustment to the state analyst for consideration. This software was successfully beta-tested and will be used in the review of 2012-2022 long-term industry employment projections for Local Workforce Areas in Fall 2014. The software was presented to state analysts at the 2014 Annual PMP Summit in June 2014.

3. Conduct and publish relevant economic analyses, special workforce information, or economic studies of benefit to the governor and state and local WIBs.

Based upon ongoing consultations with state and local workforce board and partner agency staff, education and workforce development partners under the auspices of the P-20 Council, and our WDQI and WIF partner agencies and private sector partners, during PY13 Economic Information and Analysis staff leveraged resources to conduct workforce analyses to address several critical education, workforce and economic development strategies in Illinois.

This year, Illinois produced an annual report with data collected from the American Community Survey, 2008-12 dataset and from agency statistical programs. The county data was divided into local workforce investment areas (LWIA) and then into data by categories of LWIAs (LWIACATs) Analysis of the LWIACAT data was then completed to show differences across the areas. Data included the LWIACAT analysis were: agency statistical program output; population characteristics; education and earnings; veteran status; and barriers to employment. The goal of this report was to show how challenges and opportunities faced by the LWIAs depending on the size and geography and local characteristics of the LWIA – that is, which category it covered. For instance, the

challenges and opportunities of the Chicago-Cook LWIA would be very different from rural area LWIAs. The American Community Survey data is richer and more complex than some of the monthly and quarterly data available through the BLS Fed-State cooperative data and allows more in-depth analysis than simple monthly estimates of job growth or unemployment rates.

http://www.ides.illinois.gov/IDES%20Forms%20and%20Publications/AnnualReport_2014.pdf

In addition, several reports were produced that focused on local questions or specific customer requests. These include:

Stem Profiles are requested often by customers across the state from different LWIAs. We update the profiles by industry utilizing our most recent industry and occupation employment projections. This product was first created by request of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. It is used in the Career Pathways project as well as the Illinois Shared Learning Exchange (ISLE). Most recently, the Manufacturing Industry profile was requested by the Accelerated Training for Illinois Manufacturing (ATIM) project.

http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/STEM_Profiles.aspx

UI Claimant Data Available by Legislative District (quarterly publication). This report was initially produced twice a year in 2012; shifted to a quarterly format in 2013 and since April 2014 is produced monthly. It began as a report that only contained basic UI claimant demographic information. It was enhanced to include information on industries and occupations as well as employment service information on job orders and job applications through IllinoisJobLink, our official labor exchange. The legislative district dashboard report remains unique in its ability to report UI claimant information by US legislative district as well as State Senate district. (The Illinois House legislative district remains too small to allow publication (due to confidentiality disclosure) and thus the reports are not produced for each House district. In Illinois, however, each state Senate district is comprised of two House districts so House District information is still accessible to some degree.)

http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Custom/Library/publications/ILMR/leg_dashboard.pdf

Illinois continues to use **real-time data analysis tools: HWOL and TORQ** in a variety of venues. The Conference Board's HWOL online job ads provide information on current demand for employment by occupation and industry. Occupational demand provides useful input to current and future job seekers in that people train for occupations, not industries. The HWOL data is available by detailed geography and we are often asked to depict the demand for various occupations within very small local areas. Educators and job seekers are aware that the job market may be broader than a single county. Consequently, our monthly HWOL list of jobs in demand is compiled by Economic Development Region (EDR). There are 10 such regions in Illinois. Based on analysis of usage, we have revamped our publications to meet the needs of our customers.

<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/HWOL.aspx>

Workforce Associates' TORQ, which stands for Transferable Occupation Relationship Quotient is a tool that can be used in Rapid Response, Economic Development and simply when job seekers are job hunting and need to shift gears in their occupational choices when demand for occupations change due to the economic environment. The TORQ tool is used to help people assess how their current skills match up with available jobs in demand. In addition, the TORQ tool is being used in the field in helping jobseekers in the manufacturing sector in the ATIM project (the Workforce Innovation Fund grant).

Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI)

Over the course of the past year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014), senior EI&A staff continued to meet regularly with partner agencies such as the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), as well as state education agencies to discuss how to best share educational longitudinal data in combination with workforce longitudinal data.

A governance board was established in Illinois in order to monitor and coordinate the efforts of the workforce and education agencies in establishing a longitudinal database that would allow organizations to produce consumer reports. The Directors of IDES and DCEO are members of the governance board.

During this period, IDES staff has met with DCEO staff (Project Manager Patricia Schnoor and Mark Saladino) and began matching WIA training participant data to workforce outcomes. This project team tested several linked-longitudinal record matching methodologies, developed measures for training participation and workforce outcomes, and identified cohort-based analytical strategies.

At the Illinois Department of Employment Security, we continue to partner with Illinois State University and to build and refine an infrastructure to house a broad range of workforce administrative data (UI Wage Records, Claimant Benefit data, IllinoisJobLink.com (job seeker data), and Employment Services data) and construct analytical databases for the investigation labor market behavior of Illinois workers. These data sets will allow us to provide more robust information to IDES Operations staff to target employment services where they are most needed. Ultimately, UI claimants/job seekers will benefit by reducing their duration of collecting UI benefits.

Workforce Innovation Fund Grant

The Economic Information and Analysis division continues to help with the WIF grant in Illinois by providing local labor market information. Both real time labor market tools, HWOL and TORQ are utilized for this project as they assist employers and job seekers involved in the programs.

The Economic Information and Analysis Division is also closely involved on the employment projection side. The IDES/EI&A employment projections team are working in conjunction with the partners to produce projections and incorporate feedback from the partners to supply the most accurate employment and skill projections. The software tool was created in 2013 and tested in 2014. As we progress to the employer testing phase in September 2014, we will have a better understanding of how to apply this enhanced tool in the future, and in more sectors than just manufacturing

4. Posting products, information, and reports on the Internet.

To assist partners and local stakeholders to achieve the State Workforce Investment Plan's goals of economic self-sufficiency and business growth, IDES' online labor market and career information systems continue to provide access to tools and services that enable customers to make informed career and occupational decisions. In order to insure accessibility to all stakeholders in the Illinois Workforce Development System, IDES' web sites maintain their linkages to Illinois workNet and provide analysis of employment trends, educational, training and skill requirements, wages, career advancement opportunities, and labor market conditions with a demand-driven focus on major employing industries in the state.

The IDES website contains a plethora of information from monthly updates on BLS products including estimates of local area unemployment rates and current employment statistics. In addition to the BLS-funded products, Illinois also produces employment statistics for counties, LWIAs, and economic development regions.

The BLS requires that we publish Business Employment Dynamics and county data from the quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, but we also produce an annual publication called Where Workers Work which details establishment and employment counts by local community across the state as well as zip code in the Chicagoland area.

Community Patterns are posted on the website as are links to the Local Employment Dynamics information (of which Illinois was a founding partner with the U.S. Census Bureau more than 10 years ago and for which George Putnam was awarded the 2014 Innovation Award by the U.S. Census.)

UI Program data is published online as well as a Workforce Availability publication designed for organizations who require the necessary data to complete Affirmative Action compliance or EEO reports for all counties and MSAs.

One of the IDES jewels is the Career Information System. Illinois is committed to providing a system to promote career planning which is free for all Illinois citizens.

The Career Information System and all of its data components are updated annually requiring one staff person dedicated to the update and an additional staff person to provide technical support to compile and build the updated files for use in CIS.

Each year the contents of the 580+ occupations are completely reviewed and updated including adding new wage and projections information which is used to update the Wages and Employment and Outlook sections in addition to being displayed in tabular form; all other occupational components such as Working Conditions, Skills and Abilities, Physical Demands, Preparation, Hiring Practices and others are reviewed and updated. New occupations are added each year, and some New and Emerging occupations are promoted to full occupations.

Each December a school survey is sent to more than 700 Illinois schools requesting that they use our on-line tool to update their information. As time permits the schools that do not respond to the survey are contacted, or information is gathered from their public websites, if available. Additionally, our program of study information is updated to add school-specific program information as obtained from the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. This is a two- to three-month intensive process and is the most time consuming part of the annual CIS update.

Additionally, we review and update the numerous additional components in CIS, including: Occupation Sort (which is coded based in part on our wage and projections data), Financial Aid, Military Occupations and About the Military files, Choosing Occupations, Green Jobs, Jobs Success, Paying for School, Job Search, Choosing a Program of Study, Choosing a School, About Assessments, Reality Check (which requires data for the 12 metro areas in Illinois), Self-Employment, Industries and Graduation Requirements.

Each Fall the 580 occupations in our CIS Junior (middle school) product are also updated. These files are maintained at a fifth grade reading level and special attention is required to ensure that the language is appropriate for that audience. The Junior product has fewer components than the full CIS program but there are several other components that are reviewed and updated annually.

- ▶ The updated 2013-2014 Career Information System (CIS) and CIS Junior were released to the Web as scheduled in September.
- ▶ Number of unique visitors, CIS = 149,524; CIS Junior = 17,198.
- ▶ The primary point of access to labor market data for most customers is the 'Data and Statistics' page of the IDES homepage, although customers can view labor market information through several access points. Number of page views = 150,287.

5. Collaborating and consulting on a continuing basis with WIBs and other key workforce and economic development partners and stakeholders to improve LMI-WI products, tools, and information services to meet evolving customer needs.

- ▶ Again this program year, IDES continued to expand and enhance the incorporation of the Career Information System and the most frequently requested labor market information into Illinois workNet as part of our partnership with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB).
- ▶ IDES/EI&A began to explore new avenues to market the Career Information System and the career tools by establishing a new relationship with ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission). Their business model offers each education district in Illinois two representatives that promote career planning at the high school level. These ambassadors will easily be able to market the Career Information System in ways that is no longer practical for EI&A staff.
- ▶ Provided monthly Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) summary reports and Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) data, in requested formats, by Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and Local Workforce Areas (LWAs) to Governor's Office, DCEO, IWIB, and to all Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- ▶ Even though the BLS stopped funding the MLS program, Illinois continues to provide as much data as possible on Mass Layoff Statistics. The main difference is that we no longer contact employers to interview them (which was previously funded by the BLS, but we can no longer fund internally.) Illinois believes it is important to produce this data because it helps the rapid response teams at DCEO as well as IDES staff helping at mass layoff events.
- ▶ Local Labor Market Economists provided technical assistance to local and regional economic and workforce development partners and their constituents by:
 - Serving on Local WIB Youth Councils, advisory committees, and standing committees.
 - Compiling data for reports and presentations for/to economic development professionals, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Education, and local elected officials.
 - Assisting local and regional Rapid Response teams in their efforts.
 - Preparing data for site selection packages to support local business attraction efforts.

This year, we requested the **labor market economists** to share in their own words how they view their role in the field.

Tom Austin works in the Rockford, IL office and covers: Adams, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Champaign, Douglas, Ford, Hancock, Henry, Iroquois, JoDaviess, Lee, McDonough, Mercer, Ogle, Piatt, Pike, Rock Island, Schuyler, Stephenson, Vermilion, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties

Types of customers served

- Workforce Investment Areas: My areas are provided with monthly CES and LAUS customized reports to help them assess the local economy. Projections data is also customized to assist LWA 3 and other LWAs in their training program approval process. Career counselors and job placement staff receive HWOL Real Time data to support Employment Projections data in career advisement and training selection. For special projects, such as promoting GED efforts, US Census data is provided to determine local need.
- Economic Development Agencies: Assist these agencies with monthly updates of CES and LAUS, along with Census, WARN, and UI Claims data. IDES has a role in assisting EDCs in their employer attraction efforts using workforce information.
- School districts and related organizations (Employment Projections, Wages)
- Businesses (Wage Data, LAUS and CES to measure local economy)
- I serve on the LWA 3 Program Oversight and Service Providing Committees, which uses IDES Employment Projections and Wage Data, HWOL, and administrative data from workforce investment programs to approve local training programs for WIA participants.
- I provide support to the LWA 3 efforts to increase educational attainment, especially those community members who do not have a high school degree or GED. This committee uses US Census educational attainment data along with employment projections by educational requirement.
- Serve on LWA 3 effort to focus community efforts helping local youth in career decisions and finding employment.
- Chicago Federal Reserve Board: I provide analysis each month as part of their local survey on local economic conditions.
- Internal IDES Customer: The IDES Employment Services Unit works with employers to post their jobs on Illinois Job Link. To provide them with employers hiring in their area, I prepared weekly updates of Help Wanted OnLine data. In addition, the Employment Services Unit also participates in employer attraction and expansion efforts, so EI&A provides them with Help Wanted OnLine data, projections, and labor force information.
- As part of the LWA business services team, I provide workforce information to their business customers and assist in their efforts to attract employers to job fairs and assist in layoff events.

Kinds of questions answered

- Wage for specific occupations
- Changes in labor force and employment by industry
- Census data: Educational Attainment by employment status and population, population data)
- What jobs are advertised (HWOL) by top occupation, employer, industry, full-time/part-time
- List of employers in an area, by industry (InfoUSA)
- Number of Firms by industry by area (QCEW)
- Analysis of the local economy (part of a presentation or media interview)
- Jobs with the most growth in the future (employment projections)

Tools used in PY2013

- Haver for local, state, and national data--this has been a great tool for data management. (Haver Analytics is a database of public and private data combined in a software environment to produce charts and tables. Consider it a virtual personal data assistant.)
- HWOL-Since our agency started using this tool, I have increased the different data sets available from this source, including top occupations, employers, and industries hiring in an area.
- Projections
- CIS
- ONET online
- On The Map
- InfoUSA-employer data
- US Census American Community Survey

Requests from **new clients** in PY2013

- Get clients who are looking for local information and use our web site to find out which LME serves their area.
- Reports from HWOL are used by one agency or organization, and then requested by others who have seen the data in use. Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity have utilized data tables prepared from this source.
- IDES Employment Services has increased its requests for workforce data, including HWOL, and has been an important new internal client.
- Agencies applying for Grants, including LWAs and local non-for profit employment and training agencies look to IDES EI&A for workforce information required for their grant. As part of our customer focused effort, data from non-IDES sources, such as Census, BEA, and other sources are provided to customers.
- Exposure through speaking and training events have led to new customers after they see what information IDES EI&A provides and our customer service efforts to help them with their needs.

Servicing longstanding **clients regularly**

- I have a list of clients in each of my areas that receive a monthly update of labor force and employment by industry changes for their specific area. To provide my customers with a quick reference table to compare counties in their region, I also have a summary of change in total nonfarm and labor force data as dashboard report.
- HWOL data is provided to LWA, Partner, and IDES staff
- Prepare annual reports for workforce availability / affirmative action reports for external and internal customers.
- IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity: Detailed tables of top employers, occupations, and industries hiring individuals with manufacturing experience for the ATIM Grant.

Norman Kelewitz works in the Aurora, IL office and covers: Bureau, DeKalb, Fulton, Henderson, Kane, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Livingston, McLean, Marshall, Mason, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, and Woodford Counties.

Requests from **new clients** in PY2013

- NTN Bearing Mfg. (private)—Wages
- Economic Development Resources (economic development)—geographic definitions of metro areas
- Lisle Business Services (other IDES)—Wages and Occupational Employment
- Joliet Local Office (other IDES)—LAUS
- AIS Software Center for Excellence (private)—Occupational Employment
- Chicago Revenue (other IDES)—number of employers in state
- North Aurora Adjudication (other IDES)—Occupational Employment
- Northern Illinois University student (education)—state duration of unemployment
- PACE (government)—LAUS

Servicing longstanding **clients regularly**

- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (economic development)—Occupational Employment
- Statewide Field Audit (other IDES)—number of employers in state
- Arlington Heights Field Audit (other IDES)—NAICS coding assistance
- Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission (government)—Veteran Unemployment Rate
- Lake County Partners (economic development)—UI Covered Employment by Industry
- Economic Development Council of Central Illinois (economic development)-- LAUS
- WIA 4 (government)—historical LAUS and Nonag
- Elgin Community College (education)—Veteran Unemployment Rate
- WIA 5 (government)—Occupational Employment
- WIA 1 (government)—Wages
- Elgin Chamber of Commerce (economic development)—UI Covered Employment by Industry

In addition, Norman Kelewitz regularly helps labor market economists from other local areas compile data requests as well as helping Central office staff in other programs as needed.

Ron Payne works in the Springfield, IL office and covers: Cass, Christian, DeWitt, Greene, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott

My customer base has not changed much over the years in this position. Below is a list of the larger more notable projects I worked on during the past year, in many cases filling in for the work produced previously by the Workforce Analysis and Dissemination Manager who passed away during this program year.

- The DOL made a site visit to DCEO headquarters in Springfield and all agency partners explained how they have contributed to the ATIM project and demonstrated the products we have delivered to the project. I explained IDES participation. Also, met with program evaluator for the ATIM project answering questions about the collaborative efforts of the agencies involved and of general progress of the initiative.
- Illinois Enterprise Zone Association - Identified tools the members can use from IDES and other Federal sources to help prepare EZ applications. Topics included LAUS, CES, MLS, QCEW, wage and projections data and commuting data from IDES. Also, poverty data and census tract maps from the Census Bureau and WARN data from the DCEO website. There were approximately 125 in attendance.
- Working out details with IDES employment projections manager Darnell Cloud to have all LMEs begin testing the BETA site for the Local Industry Projections Review software.
- IL Workforce Investment Board – Healthcare Task Force Meeting – Made a general presentation on healthcare industry and occupational projections data to members of the board.
- Updated data for the “Learn More Earn More” brochure, which was then graphically designed by publications editor Rachael Katz and posted to the website.
- Researched and provided information to IDES Deputy Director Gideon Blustein on occupations that qualify for the H-1B Visa Program as well as a listing of H-1B friendly companies in Illinois.
- Presentation to the WIA 20 board about pre and post-recession industry data and discussing the industries most affected by the recession.
- Participated in a conference call with Georgetown University professors, including labor force expert Anthony Carnevale, concerning their production of projections data by educational attainment for a multi-agency request.
- Presentation to the Springfield Jobs Council concerning pre and post-recession jobs data for the Springfield MSA.
- Participated in the LMI section of the ETA Review covering LME duties and areas of major importance.
- Coordinated project and created data for the Manufacturing Industry in the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Metro Division for an initiative that IDES Deputy Director Gideon Blustein is working on for a manufacturing group in the northeast region. Data included HWOL and occupational wages.
- Provided data package to Lincoln Land Community College’s Director of Workforce Development for her use in completing a DCEO grant application for the Urban Weatherization Program. Data included Census Tract labor force data, poverty and income data.
- Licensure Data - Updated the list of different state agencies and the titles/certifications/licensing that each are responsible for. This data will be updated in the WID database to satisfy an ETA requirement.
- Worked on a request from DCEO concerning Manufacturing. The TAA is nearing exhaustion and DCEO is trying to get it extended. Provided Industry and Occupational Projections data, QCEW data, HWOL data and CES data.

Vicki Niederhofer works in the Belleville, IL office and covers: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, St. Clair

Vicki is a power user of TORQ, HWOL and an emerging specialist on the Career Information System.

- Spoke to 711 inmates at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center in East St. Louis, a drug treatment state prison, about IDES Job Centers and Job Club in East St Louis and Belleville. The Job Centers will be available to help them prepare for re-entry upon their release.
- Facilitated, with WIA partners, an interactive introduction to Job Club, Career Information System, and TORQ for 17 parolees at the Federal Courthouse in East St Louis. The US Probation Department hosts the event every year.
- Attended Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity sponsored work groups and presentations with both LWIB boards’ members to develop the regional portion of the statewide five year plan for economic development. The report was issued July 1, 2014.

- Worked with partners to develop a Job Club in East St. Louis with marketing plans that include WIA case managers and Department of Human Services and Housing Authority clients. Over 400 attendees have participated in our weekly job club meetings in both Belleville and East St. Louis.
- Partnered with two WIA offices to promote the weatherization program sponsored by Metropolitan Training Alliance, (I serve on their executive board), at Southwestern Illinois College.
- Presented information on the Career Information System to 22 members of the Area Planning Council, Southwestern Illinois College.
- Attend monthly workshops for spouses at Scott Air Force Base, presenting career information, labor market information and invitations to our job centers for Job Club and WIA services.
- Networked with members of our Latino Roundtable, promoting the Spanish version of CIS “Kids and Careers” brochure.
- Provided administrative access to CIS users at schools, developed a checklist for navigation for different types of users, and continue to learn more about the Illinois learning standards to market to customers in educational roles.
- Trained the residential counselor at Call for Help (homeless shelter) and provided a job club with WIA partners to five residents there in recovery from substance abuse. In the future, the residents will be able to get assistance from Mr. Paradise, utilizing our tools and products.
- Re-activated the CIS account for Provisio West High School in Cook County after the senior counselor attended my weekly webinar. She will reach out to the middle school counselor.
- Worked with the City of Belleville and the team they contracted with, EDR Solutions, to revise their Empowerment Zone boundaries. I provided a variety of data.
- Working with DeWitt Kelly, West 40 Regional Office of Education, I conducted CIS training on ATT Connect weekly, with “mini-sessions” lasting 10 – 30 minutes (to serve as a reminder as well as to accommodate busy schedules).
- Served on the Marketing Committee and helped choose “success stories” for the annual awards for LWIA-24. I also am a member of the Youth Council LWIA-24.
- Partnered with LWIA-22, as a member of Youth Council, to facilitate the Career Fairs at Highland High School and Junior High.

Dennis Hoffman works in the Mount Vernon office and covers: Alexander, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Moultrie, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Shelby, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson

- Authored ILMR Article “Illinois Wineries and Vineyards”
http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/ILMR/Wine_in_IL.pdf

Director Jay Rowell provided a copy of the article to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for promotional use.

- Provided “Learn More Earn More” Brochures and HWOL Data Sheets to be distributed at the Wabash Valley Employer Seminar held in Mt. Carmel on March 20, 2013.
- Attended the Mt. Vernon Veteran’s Job Fair held on April 11, 2013. There were 45 employers and more than 40 job seekers at this event. I distributed the “Learn More Earn More” Brochures and Career Information System Literature as well as assist IDES staff with the employer and job seekers requests.
- Discussed Long-Term Unemployed with Mid-5 Area Agency; WIA-26.
- Created Workforce Availability Tables for three WIA Areas – 23, 25, & 26.
- Provided supply of “Kids and Careers” to Bill Goins, Casey Middle School, Mt. Vernon and George Hopkins, Franklin-Williamson ROE.
- Manned booth at two day Mt. Vernon Teacher’s Conference Oct. 24 & 25, 2013. Approximately 1,500 teachers and administrators attend conference
- Met with with Salem Economic Development Director, Jeanne Gustafson, Consultant Jay Turner, and Polar Services Representative from Minnesota about the expansion plans for a local employer. Provided LAUS, Wage Data, Commuting Pattern Data, Affirmative Action Data, and other LMI. Later, this employer announced a major expansion project in Salem.

- Assisted in the OES Survey Follow-up in November and December 2013. Over 225 employers were contacted.
- Discussed Industry and Occupational Projections and Help Wanted On Line with Melissa Daniel, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in Olney.
- Develop Customized Narrative for Southern and Southeastern EDRs.

Central Office

The majority of the Economic Information and Analysis Division is located in Chicago. This includes all BLS program staff as well as the Employment Projections staff; other research economists and our publications editor. We utilize all the economists in the Central office to help with requests from our customers not only in Chicago but around the state. For example, Dave Bieneman is our specialist on Veteran's issues having done research in the past several years on the transition of Illinois veterans from military discharge to civilian employment. Illinois' LED specialist, Allan Ross, also works in Central Office. He regularly attends U.S. Census-sponsored LED conferences in Washington D.C. on behalf of the Division. In conjunction with his expertise of the LED mapping tool, On the Map, he has become the specialist on Geographic Information Systems and utilizes ARC-GIS in his work.

General unemployment statistics questions are usually answered by Richard Reinhold, who heads the BLS/LAUS Program in Illinois (and is also the state co-chair of the LAUS Policy Council). Mr. Reinhold also handles all high unemployment area certification requests. In Program Year 2013, Illinois had 119 requests for such letters certifying high unemployment areas in order to get EB-5 Visa approvals by the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. Illinois issued 95 certification letters.
<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=3665>

LMI Director Evelina Loescher has participated on various outreach events including meetings Workforce Investment Board leaders and a newly-formed LMI Peer Learning Exchange sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust.

Economic Information and Analysis group responds to legislative requests as well as questions from the Governor's office. George Putnam and Evelina Loescher participate on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors quarterly meetings.

Central office requests are varied and numerous. From the Central Office perspective, we probably serve more state government officials than the other local areas. We use all the tools at our disposal from HWOL to TORQ to CIS to Employment Projections to all forms of traditional and newly available labor market data.

In June 2013, the Economic Information and Analysis Division was asked to lead the work on Shared Data Agreements. IDES has had shared data agreements with other state agencies and organizations for several years providing a variety of information but mostly data related to UI Wage records. Due to the work related to the Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant, IDES is receiving more requests for data and thus there is a greater need for shared data agreements.

In FY2013, the Economic Information and Analysis Division undertook several new projects in which workforce data such as UI wage records would be matched with education data or training data working with such agencies as the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Education Research Council, and others. In some cases, the project team simply matches UI wage record data to social security numbers per the request of the researcher. But in more cases, the matching has become more complex as matches are done for students without SSNs or matching indicators are more numerous, including information from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages to incorporate industry information.

The WDQI grant ensures that matching workforce, training and education data will become increasing important and in greater demand in coming years as the Illinois Longitudinal System gains acceptance by workforce and education agencies.

Ewa Gallagher, in her capacity as Manager of UI Claims Statistics and Forecasts, produces weekly indices on UI claims volume and quarterly forecasts for regular and extended UI claims volume.

Ewa, Darnell Cloud, and George Putnam enhanced the UI Trust Fund solvency models used by the Agency's senior management and also distributed to the Employment Security Advisory Board (a group of leaders in

business, labor and government positions). In addition to the IDES proprietary model, they have created auxiliary forecast models on UI weeks paid and state labor market conditions. Moreover, they are working towards implementation of the USDOL Benefit Funding Model for Illinois after having met and trained with US DOL economist Paul Jiang in September 2013.

Customer Service Highlights

It is always a pleasure to collect some of the notes of appreciation our staff gets each year for helping job seekers, economic developers, career counselors, government policymakers and others by providing labor market and career information.

Hi Rich –

You helped us out a great deal last year by sending us 2011 unemployment information for the smaller cities in Cook County (attached). I wonder if you have updated numbers for 2012?

We pulled the Cook Co. larger municipalities 2012 data from the IDES website, but it looks like the small cities are still only available by request from IDES. Thanks in advance for any information you can provide!

Also, I am copying my colleague Michelle Rafferty...she will be handling data and labor market information work at the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership when I go on maternity leave next month. I told her that you and George and Mitch and Evelina are consistently the most helpful contacts, and always so generous with sending us data. We appreciate your Division so much!

**Thank you again,
Marisa (LEWIS), Cook County Workforce Board**

Mr. Daniels,

I wanted you to know how much I appreciate Vickie inviting me to the team approach job seminar at the Belleville Office. She is doing a great job of informing unemployed people about the methods of job search. Her project is very needed and she and her team are very helpful.

I am unemployed due to company buyouts and closures and budget cuts. I have been through 4 of them in my career and it can get very discouraging at times. Having a place like this to go to gain more perspective on the job search is very rewarding. Please tell her how much I appreciate it and her teams's efforts.

It's a great project for people to keep focused.

Sincerely appreciative,
Ernest Jim Cant

Sent to Richard Reinhold on October 2, 2013

Dear Mr.Reinhold,

Thank you very much for the report and your quick response. You have done a good service and I hope that the government shutdown will not affect you.

Best, Victor Hue

"This is just what we needed. Thank you." Kim Jacobs WIA-26-Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board of occupation employment projections data to LME Dennis Hoffman)

Thank you Tom for all the help and education (Employer data on InfoUSA) Kitty J.M. Johnson IDES

Lola Lucas - "JSMT is really good—we need to get it to where people can see it without logging into CIS. Could it be put on the IDES home page? It really makes a difference in how people approach job search."

Colleen Neary, ES rep

Lola Lucas - "I got laid off from my job at OSF Hospital in Peoria because I have cancer. I need to find a new job and a bachelor's degree in social work doesn't count for much. Thanks so much for your ideas on finding financial aid!" (caller)

Ron Payne - Can't thank you enough! You've saved me a great deal of time and provided great insight.

From: Joe Calomino, Manager of Statewide Activities

TD&L STEM Learning Exchange; Illinois Manufacturer's Association Education Foundation

Lola Lucas - "Thank you for all of your helpful information. I am encouraging my son to actually follow through. He's 22 so it's hard to influence him to do anything. Re coaching certification---- I have been on the fence....thanks for your ideas and insight!" Judy Cohan via LinkedIn

"I would like to order 5 bundles of Kids and Careers in English and 3 bundles in Spanish. I would also like to order 5 bundles of Learn More Earn More in English and 3 bundles in Spanish. We are holding our annual combined Community High School District 218 College and Career Fair on Wednesday, October 30, 2013. The brochures are always well received by the students and parents who attend this fair from our three district high schools. Could you please ship the brochures to the name and address below. Thank you."
Marty Kleefisch, Career Facilitator, Richards High School

(Tom Austin) I want to say thank you to you and your team for assisting with outreach to the employers in my new location. The mailing was just over 2 weeks ago but already it is bearing fruit. I am excited. The responses are coming in bit by bit. Just this morning I received through the mail 3 separate opportunities for our job seekers. Within 5 days of the mailing I had received 3 other openings. From Other companies, although they do not have open positions at the moment they were interested in being made aware of other supportive services and events that IDES and our WorkNet partners offer. This initial endeavor of mine to introduce myself to the local area business community and to connect or reconnect them to the Labor exchange would not have been possible without the assistance of you Tom and your team behind the scenes. I want to also thank you for re-educating me regarding the realm of labor market information and how it can be applied to better understand many things regarding our employer base and trends and how using it can maximize our activities.

Best Regards, Kitty

Kitty J. M. Johnson, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Business Services Coordinator, ESSIII

(Lucas) Lola, thank you so much for taking time to review your CIS system and the possible adaptation for use at Common Place. Your idea of preparing a "Job Seekers Guide" for the students at Common Place sounds like the way to go. I am going to review our discussion and ideas with the Executive Director of Common Place (Connie Voss) and we will then begin to proceed. I will get back to you after my review with Connie. Again, thank you for taking time with me and being so helpful. Your work will definitely assist these folks who are behind in their education to get a better plan for how to proceed with their careers.
Bill Ligon

**"I didn't expect to talk to a live person. You're the first one who actually picked up the phone."
Caller asking for CNA training information**

(Lola. Lucas) You actually give me hope. I'm turning 55 tomorrow and I thought no one would hire me. I'll check on retraining at the Sheridan office Monday morning. I can't thank you enough, this is so helpful. 55 year-old laid off painter

(Dennis Hoffman) Received a thank you email from Courtney Yockey, the new director for the Richland County Development Corp. "Thank you sir, I appreciate the help".

Lola Lucas - "I haven't been able to get a live human being. All these 800 numbers just lead to being transferred around then cut off. I'm so glad to talk with you—thanks for getting me to the right people at IJL!"
Employer trying to post a job with IJL

(Tom. Austin) Hello Tom, I miss receiving your monthly reports you send out. I'm not sure if I've received them since I left Growth Dimensions. Could you send me a copy of the latest reports that you've sent out please?

C. Mark Williams ; Economic Development Manager ; City of Rockford

(Dennis. Hoffman) From Angela Griffin, Coles Together in Mattoon, "As Usual, thanks for the monthly data. That's exactly what I was thinking and hoping you would confirm. Thanks."

Dennis Hoffman - From Jeff Ebel, Dean of Instructional Effectiveness, Kaskaskia College, Centralia, "Thank you again for allowing us to visit you today. Each of us enjoyed meeting you and our discussion very much".

R. Reinhold Provided report to M. Hillen of DCEO showing total number of initial claims by week and initial and continued claims by county of residence for former Dominick's Finer Foods employees. The report will be used to assist DCEO Dislocated Worker Unit staff in outreach efforts. Matt replied to report " Perfect. Thank you so much"

**Email from Projections analyst in Pennsylvania to Nancy Carlson, IDES projections analyst, for her assistance in the production of a contract deliverable for the PA ETA TEGL,
Nancy, I can't begin to thank you enough for all the time and help you provided me with this morning. I have the analyst rerunning all the estimates as we speak which now will include the supersector and the box for the 3 digit. I also appreciate your suggestions with handling the religious organization piece. I will be in contact if I need any further assistance with importing the data into MicroMatrix.
Thanks so much!
Danielle Perkins | Descriptive Statistical Supervisor
Department of Labor & Industry | Center for Workforce Information & Analysis**

Vicki & Lee,
Just wanted to thank you for all the support you provided to me during my time here at Scott AFB. Your efforts took the Transition Assistance Program in new direction and significantly enhanced the program. Your dedication to veterans in this area is a great asset to IDES.
The 18th of Mar will be my last day. I am moving on to the Moody AFB, GA Airman & Family Readiness Center. If you are ever in the Valdosta, GA area, please look us up.
Take care :)
V/r, Peggy

**Vicki,
Thank you for the webinar on CIS last week. I have been asked by a teacher to do the interest profiler with her class. I was wondering if it would be possible for Ted and I to have an administrative account so we can access our students portfolio's. I had this access in Missouri and it was very helpful as students don't always remember their passwords, I was able to check if students had completed the assessments, and was able to print out their portfolios for their DRS file.
Thank you,
Dominique Dial, MS, CRC
Transition Specialist
Oak Park & River Forest High School,**

Thank you Vicky for sending me all the information to apply for a job. I will keep looking for more options, specially for training. I know that i don't have the main tool i need to apply for some good jobs. I'm talking about auto CAD / Solidwork design tool. If you now where can i get training for it, let me know . Thank you again. Felipe Leyvo (Job Club attendee)

**(Tom Austin) Thank you. This information will be helpful.
Best regards, Carmen
Carmen McCleary, MSM, PHR
Sr. Human Resource Business Partner
Certified CI Black Belt ; Greenlee/A Textron Company**

(Tom Austin) Tom,
Thank you so much for your time and information. I appreciate your assistance! Have a great day!
Meghan O'Brien ; State of Wisconsin ; Unemployment Department;

**(Tom Austin) Thank you very much Tom. I appreciate your help with finding and providing information for our grant application. For your reference it is a grant for the Illinois Youth Recreation Corps (IDNR).
Sincerely, Kim
Kimberly Wheeler Johnsen | Director of Marketing & Membership**

(Dennis Hoffman) "Thank you for such a prompt response" from John Huffman, Southern Illinois Law firm.

(Vicki Niederhofer) Hi Vicki,

Thanks for showing me the website today. I look forward to incorporating it into our school for the fall! I have received all the username and password emails-thanks so much! I'll come to you when I have questions.

Cassandra Croft ; Truman Middle College Academic Advisor

(Tom Austin) Hi Tom, thank you again for being so so helpful! I'm just looking for one more thing...the total Winnebago County population is about 292,000. I need the percentage of minorities for the County. Thank you!
Kerry Leigh| *Executive Director*

(Ron Payne) Thanks so much Ron for presenting at the Springfield Jobs Council today. The members were very receptive to the information and I really appreciate it! Owe you again.....LOL

P.S. I will be working on the annual plan in the next couple of weeks, so expect another plea for help!

Anne K. Schneider ; Executive Director ; Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance ;

(Ron Payne) Excellent – thank you so much Ron – I don't know how people write grants without you! Have a great weekend!

Lyn Buerkett ; Director, Adult Education and Literacy ; Lincoln Land Community College

(Tom Austin) Thank you ☐ Now we just need people to show up tomorrow and take advantage of the information. Karyn Abraham; Career Management Specialist; Community & Continuing Education; Rock Valley College

(Dennis Hoffman) “Thank you for the News Releases for April 2014” from Darlene Beisiegel with the Career Center at Southwestern Illinois College.

From the LMI Directors Meeting:

Alex Hall, LMI Director from Colorado thanked George Putnam for all his hard work on the Projections Managing Partnership.

The BLS National Office Program Managers thanked Rich Reinhold and Joe Malcom for their participation in the LAUS and CES Policy Councils.

Bob Uhlenkott, LMI Director from Idaho and WIC member, thanked Dave Bieneman for his participation in the High Tech Taxonomy Study Group

(Niederhofer) Susan Roudebush requested a guide to CIS for parents and I provided our “Kids and Careers” brochure.

This is just GREAT!!! Do you by chance have this in a doc of text format that I might use?

I forwarded the request to Rachael Katz:

I sure hope so; it's excellent!!!! Thanks, Vicky! Glad you are onboard!

Susan Roudebush, M.S., CDF, CDFI, CDFI Master Trainer ; University of Oregon ; intoCareers

(Marsha Jaeggi) Provided information on truck driver training programs offered in Illinois: “Thank you all ...very impressed with the way your whole team got involved!” (Jay O'Connor – IDES)

(Dennis Hoffman) From Kevin Martin, State Farm Insurance Regional Manager, “AWESOME! THANK YOU!”, for Local Area Unemployment Statistics and monthly News Releases.

(Niederhofer) Thanks for all your effort. David Stoecklin Executive Director Madison County Employment and Training

(Christison) Larry, Thank you! I tried it and it works. I truly appreciate you keeping me in the loop about the issue this morning. You provided excellent service. Have a great day! Ginger Cooper, Harper College

(Tom Austin) Thank you VERY much Tom for providing us this important and useful information and data on our region – much appreciated!!! Enjoy the weekend!

Jeffrey A. Lovett ; Regional Market President | Midland States Bank