



CONNECT | ADVANCE | INNOVATE

# NAWDP Advantage

National Association of Workforce Development Professionals

## Weld County Youth Find Success

Seeing a demand for young individuals wanting employment, Employment Services of Weld County's Youth Team created the Weld CARES 4 Youth Workers opportunity to assist youth impacted by the pandemic with temporary employment.

### Meet Shaela

Shaela, whose parents' work hours were cut due to the COVID-19 pandemic, needed income, and many of the places

that usually hire youth (food and non-essential retail) were currently closed.

Shaela, who was enrolled in the Weld CARES 4 Youth Workers program, had a career goal to become a veterinarian, and Weld CARES was able to assist Shaela on this career path by placing her at the Milliken Animal Clinic. Shaela enjoyed the experience and learned much throughout her temporary employment.

Upon completion of her hours, the Milliken Animal Clinic hired Shaela as a permanent employee, where she was able to increase her job duties to working directly with the animals in the clinic.

### Meet Victoria

Victoria, a 16-year-old who lacked a high school diploma or

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## Celia Garcia named to GFEL Top 100 Leaders in Education list

Celia Garcia, NAWDP's Board of Directors California State Director and CEO of Job Skills Institute, has been recognized by the Global Forum For Educational Leadership as a Top 100 Leaders in Education for her life's work as a bilingual workforce development professional. Garcia received the honor June 24, 2021 at the MGM in Las Vegas.

Celia thanked NAWDP for showing workforce professionals like herself the value of workforce services and the impact the industry has on local communities.

[Click here](#) to watch Celia's remarks after receiving the award.



*Celia Garcia, left, celebrates her award with Josh Davies.*

# A Letter from Melissa Robbins, NAWDP CEO

NAWDP is winding down our “Summer of Learning,” which provided many opportunities to take advantage of professional development to help advance you in the workforce field. We hosted a successful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Virtual Academy with Darrell “Coach D” Andrews, and the Summer E-Learning series wraps up this month. Check out the [E-Learning page](#) on NAWDP’s website to get in on the last few remaining webinars for the series.

As we start to look towards fall, NAWDP is focused on helping to connect you with other workforce development profes-

sionals, elected leaders, and stakeholders in the workforce system.

NAWDP is in the process of launching a new online community for workforce development professionals only. NAWDP members can create individual profiles and connect with other workforce development professionals to network and share ideas and best practices. Watch for more information to be released soon.

NAWDP has also released a new [Roadmap to Local Advocacy toolkit](#) to assist work-force development professionals in creating a plan to share the worth



*Melissa Robbins*

and impact of your programs in the workforce system with local elected officials and stakeholders. Please take a chance to review the Toolkit and listen to the webinar discussed on page 3 of this newsletter. Not only will the Toolkit help you develop your ad-

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## Member Profile Kristen C. Wenzel

Kristen C Wenzel is the Chief Operations Officer and EO Officer for Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works in Midland, Mich. In this role, Wenzel provides management and oversight of operational activities, including Federal and State Workforce programs. She also oversees all American Job Center opera-

tions, supports community collaborations and special initiatives, and serves as EO Officer for her workforce agency.

### **How did you get started in Workforce Development?**

I was a displaced worker in 2007 and connected to the local workforce agency as part of my job search. They had an opening on their business services team to which I applied. I was fortunate to start my workforce journey in business services and then promote into leadership roles as opportuni-

ties became available. I have been in my current role for almost six years.

### **What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?**

I am a relatively new member of NAWDP and have taken advantage of several training programs that have been offered. I have found them to be high quality and relevant to the work we do. I recently participated in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Virtual Academy, which

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AUG/SEPT

Five Part Series:

Motivational Interviewing

1:00 PM Central Time [Register Now](#)

AUG. 19

AUG. 24

Manager to Coach -  
Advanced Skills

1:00 PM Central Time [Register Now](#)

Five Part Series:

OMG! I am a Supervisor Now!

1:00 PM Central Time [Register Now](#)

SEPT. 7



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## Members-only Roadmap to Local Advocacy Tool Now Available

NAWDP members can now access the [Roadmap to Local Advocacy Toolkit](#). This Toolkit was developed by NAWDP's Advocacy Taskforce to assist workforce development professionals in creating a plan to share the stories of their workforce community and the impact of their local workforce system.

Members can also now access the recording of the recent [Roadmap to Local Advocacy webinar](#) presented by NAWDP's Maryland State Director Kirkland Murray. This webinar will walk you through the Toolkit and help you understand how to start or expand your local advocacy efforts. Examples of how you can advocate in your local area are given which you can use in the upcoming Workforce Development Month in September.

And don't forget to share your advocacy efforts with NAWDP. Tag NAWDP on social media so we can share your success in advocating for the workforce system.

\*\*Members must be signed in to the NAWDP website to access the Toolkit.

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vocacy plan, but it will give you examples of ways you can advocate for the workforce system and your organization during Workforce Development Month in September.

And finally, we are returning to an in-person event for the 2021 Youth Development Symposium. We've released a [Schedule at a Glance](#) along with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for [Pre-Conference](#) and [Workshop](#) sessions. You will start to see additional information being released in August and September. Right now, you can save the date for Dec. 6-8 in Chicago, IL, and [reserve your room](#). Visit the [Youth Development Symposium page](#) on NAWDP's website to learn more about the event, book your room, or submit your proposals.

As always, THANK YOU for all the work you do every day to support job seekers in your communities. We continue to work to support you.

## New CWDPs Announced

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals is pleased to announce the workforce professionals who have successfully earned their Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP) credential in June. [Click here](#) to view a full list of CWDP's.

Name	State	Name	State
Yolanda Williams	TX	Heather Stevens	PA
Damaris Baden	MD	Elisa Flores	CO
Mike Dolianitis	VA	Karen Hamilton	MD
Christian Gongora	TX	Martha Clark	TX
Kitisha Green	VA	Jasmine Smith	WA
Nancy Sanchez	CO		

The CWDP is a nationally recognized credential for individuals who have demonstrated they have the skills and competencies required for success in the workforce development industry. The CWDP designation is valid for three years from the date of award. More information about the CWDP can be found at [www.nawdp.org](http://www.nawdp.org).



## Follow us now on social media!



## Rural Apprenticeships for Young People

Urban Institute has published a new case study, Rural Apprenticeships for Young People - Challenges and Strategies for Success, where they reviewed four rural registered apprenticeship programs in Maine, Arizona, Missouri, and Mississippi, which have succeeded despite challenges imposed by their environments.

The case study highlights the strategies working in rural America while shedding light on the challenges faced, and shares four success factors for rural apprenticeship programs.

[Click here](#) to review the study.

## WORKFORCE CHATTER

Between 25 and 40 percent of workers plan to look for a new job once the worst of the pandemic subsides. Fifty-three percent said they'd switch industries entirely if they had opportunities to retrain.

-The Hill

Sixty-two percent of Americans would prefer skills training or another nondegree option if they enrolled in a program within the next six months.

-Strada Education Network

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equivalent, determined traditional schooling wasn't working for her and needed to find a program that could help her complete her secondary education.

Victoria enrolled in an alternative high school in January 2020 and quickly progressed through the curriculum in the self-paced program. She was doing so well with school, she wanted to find a job. Victoria was placed in a work-experience position at a local business.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, her classes transitioned online and employment at her initial worksite was put on hold, as it was deemed a non-essential business and had to close. Meanwhile, the Weld County Food Bank was in crisis and needed volunteers to help

prepare meals and emergency food boxes for those lacking food security during the Stay-at-Home order.

Victoria could not pass up the opportunity to serve! She finished her high school curriculum and graduated in April 2020, which is also the same day she became a local hero and started working at the Weld Food Bank.

### Meet Dakota

Dakota, 16 years old, loathed the traditional high school environment. She and her family did not see her making it to graduation as she couldn't even make it to the second class in the day. She needed to explore high school equivalency (HSE) options so she could get on with what life had in store for her, to become a travel nurse.

Dakota met with her case man-

ager who quickly noticed that Dakota was intelligent and too mature for the high school social life. The case manager had her take the TABE test, which proved Dakota was indeed intelligent and needed little preparation towards her HSE. Her case manager helped Dakota with get an age waiver approved so she could take the official HSE test.

Four short months later, Dakota obtained her HSE! She would have had her HSE sooner, but the COVID-19 pandemic had testing sites only filling half of the seats and the testing site Dakota used, a local community college, closed down for a long winter break.

### Meet Dianna

In February 2020, Dianna was

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## The Essentials

**TEN 02-21** - To provide information to states and local areas regarding the role of the public workforce system in addressing the economic and workforce impacts associated with the high rate of opioid addiction and other substance use disorders.

[READ MORE](#)

**TEGL 21-16, Change 1** - To update directions for determining whether youth live in a high poverty area for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Youth Program eligibility purposes.

[READ MORE](#)

**TEGL 18-16, Change 1** - To clarify participant eligibility for the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) authorized under section 167 of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA).

[READ MORE](#)

## Tools & Resources

### Tracking COVID-19 Unemployment and Job Losses Tool

This electronic resource from the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce provides three data visualization tools for Unemployment Tracking (March-November 2020); Job Loss Tracking (March-November 2020); and Income Loss Tracking (March 2020 to present). The data components include education level, gender, race, age, industry, and occupation.

These data visualization tools illustrate the uneven effects of the pandemic across the American economy.

The electronic tools provide valuable data visualizations and break down the statistics by education, gender, race, age, industry, and occupation for the period January through November 2020.

[Click here](#) to access the Tracking COVID-19 Unemployment and Job Losses tools.

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advised by her high school counselor that she should meet with a Youth Programs Case Manager at Employment Services of Weld County. She was starting to get behind in the alternative school she was attending, and she had no plans after high school for employment or education.

Dianna needed direction, and she needed it quick. Dianna ended up meeting with her case manager who helped her with an exploration of career pathways and employment opportunities. Dianna was going through a difficult time in life as her parents had recently shared that they were separating. They were already low-income, and now the income would be split between two homes. Dianna felt a training program was too much for her to commit to and too much of a burden to ask from her parents.

Through interest assessments and research of current labor market information, Dianna decided she would like to become a Dental Assistant and the training program duration fit her schedule, as it is short term. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program was able to support Dianna in attending the Academy of Dental Assisting Careers to obtain the certificate that she needed to further her career.

Once Dianna's direction was planned, she was motivated to graduate high school and begin her career. She graduated high school in June 2020. Not even the barriers of COVID could hold her back. Dianna successfully obtained her Dental Assisting Certificate in July 2020 and started an internship at a local pediatric dental office. That office since hired her full-time, and she is still employed there today!



**SHARE YOUR STORY!** 

[Click here to share what's happening in your community!](#)

What is happening in your communities? NAWDP wants to know more. Please take a few minutes to share the challenges faced by your customers or employers and the outcomes and benefits of your programs.

[Click here](#) to submit your story.

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was very impactful. I am going to work with our state's workforce association to see about bringing Coach D to Michigan for training for the Michigan Works! Network's workforce professionals in Michigan.

### **What do you like to do for fun, or what is a unique fact about you?**

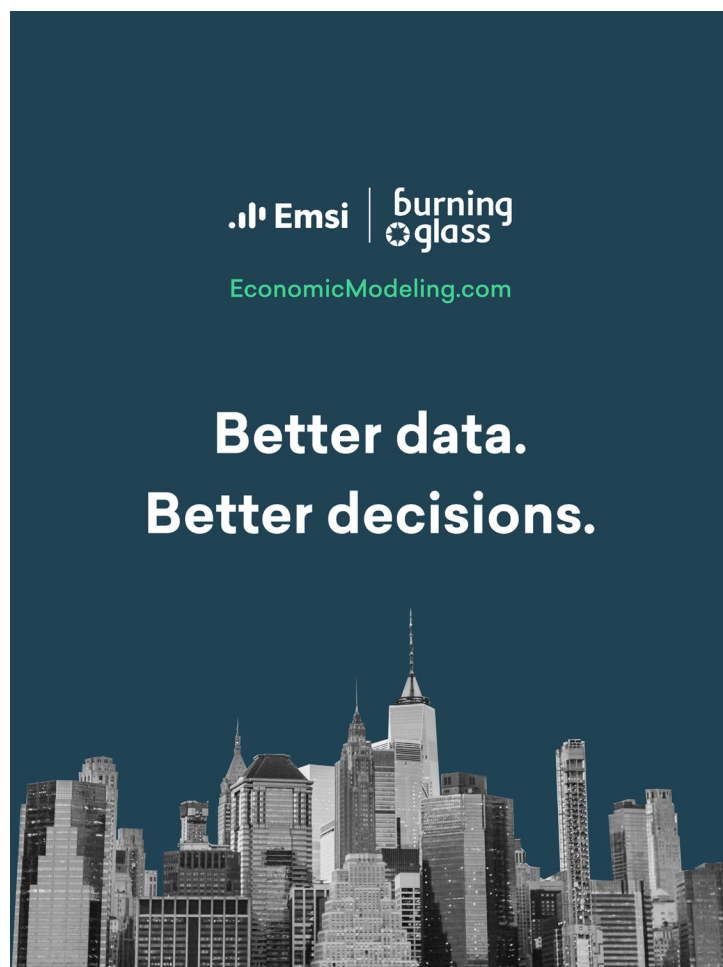
Anyone who knows me knows I love to cook for family and friends. I collect cookbooks from places we travel - that's my go-to souvenir. I can then use recipes from places we've visited to bring a little taste of vacation home.





 **Who is your WORKFORCE HERO?** 

[Click here to nominate your workforce hero!](#)

NAWDP wants to know about the workforce heroes that do great things in your communities. [Click here](#) to nominate your hero.



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