



NEWS RELEASE

2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302, Lisle, Illinois 60532 (630) 955-2030

Website: WORKNETDUPAGE.ORG Twitter: @workNetDuPage Facebook: workNet DuPage Career Center

For Immediate Release

Dec. 12, 2019

Contact: Amy Ullo
(630) 955-2067

workNet DuPage: The Year in Review

LISLE – The workNet DuPage Career Center proudly releases its [2018-19 Year in Review](#), showcasing the significant impact the organization – funded by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – makes throughout DuPage County.

All year, the workNet DuPage Career Center enthusiastically supported both job seekers and local businesses. Job hunters included laid-off workers affected by global market forces, as well as return-to-work parents, individuals with disabilities, veterans, young adults, and career changers. In addition, workNet DuPage assisted businesses hoping to develop their existing workforce and recruit talent.

“The progress we’ve made at the workNet DuPage Career Center has an exponential impact on families, as job seekers are able to find employment,” said DuPage County Economic Development Chairman Tim Elliott. “The net benefit for DuPage County is not only measurable in monetary terms but is life-changing for our residents.”

According to workNet DuPage Career Center Executive Director Lisa Schvach, “Clients who completed workNet DuPage-funded job training programs earned more than \$15.5 million in wages. That spending power is currently being re-invested into the community. Businesses, too, strengthened their workforce and simultaneously bolstered the regional economy. As we reflect on our clients’ achievements, we renew our steadfast commitment to DuPage County and move forward with great momentum.”

With record low unemployment in DuPage County, the center focused on upskilling the existing workforce by awarding local employers nearly \$400,000 in Incumbent Worker training grants – an unprecedented amount.

The center spearheaded new initiatives including a healthcare talent pipeline with Northwestern Medicine and Edward-Elmhurst Health to encourage career pathways in the County’s fastest-growing industry. And with the national opioid crisis hitting home, the organization extended its impact with the launch of Recovery and Manufacturing – A Path Up (RAMP-UP), a workforce program connecting individuals in recovery with meaningful work and manufacturers with a

distinct talent pool. For this effort, workNet DuPage won the 2019 Illinois Workforce Partnership Innovative Solutions Award, honoring exemplary service to the state workforce system.

The report highlights client success stories, providing a snapshot of the more than 300 individuals and many businesses who benefited from job search support, training, and/or funding assistance. Their compelling stories illustrate the myriad ways workNet DuPage changes lives and contributes to the success of the local economy.

The Year in Review can be read/downloaded here: <https://www.worknetdupage.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/workNetDuPageCareerCenterYearinReview.pdf>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Amy Ullo at aullo1@worknetdupage.org or (630) 955-2067.

###

*The **DuPage County Workforce Development Division (WDD)/workNet DuPage Career Center** is funded through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and serves job seekers and businesses in DuPage County. Its mission is to ensure that DuPage County businesses have access to a skilled workforce and job seekers have access to meaningful employment. For more information, visit www.worknetdupage.org.*