



**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing what 2021 brings, including new and continued partnerships, innovative programs and community relations.

As we move into the new year, we're keeping the focus on finding ways to help workers and businesses succeed.

**Looking back at 2020**, our Drive Thru Job Fairs proved successful, connecting job seekers to local companies with great positions. We also celebrated graduations, hires and successes at our 2020 Annual Awards Celebration as well as highlighted some of our partners who dedicated their talent and resources to helping our communities persevere.

Stay safe, stay strong and stay involved.

Best,  
Seth Lentz and the WDBSCW team

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# Our Commitment to Workforce Relief & Recovery



We remain dedicated to connecting job seekers to the resources and opportunities available to them in their area.

With partners, we're continuing to innovate and expand the way we interact with participants, businesses and the community to help with the workforce recovery and relief.

- We outfitted our environment and staff with the PPE needed to conduct meetings in a safe manner.
- We're hosting virtual workshops to support young adults in their transition to independence.
- Our virtual Rapid Response sessions continue to connect dislocated workers with the resources available to them.
- The Drive Thru Job Fairs offer an innovative way for businesses and job seekers to connect.
- Our virtual employer interviewing efforts are offering a safe way to connect employers to local talent.

**If you or someone you know is interested in receiving additional services and support, contact us at 608-288-2459.**

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## **Work Experience Helping Those Impacted by COVID-19**





We're helping our communities and putting people back to work during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the Work Experience Grant. This grant funds work experiences at nonprofits to help them expand services and help workers build essential skills.

As of January 2021, we've successfully established 13 work experiences at local organizations.

*Photos: Emily at Alliant Energy Center working for Second Harvest (top), Monica at The River (left), Tiana at Alliant Energy Center working for Second Harvest (right)*



### **WEX Positions Still Available**

Are you or someone you know interested in earning a paycheck while making an impact? Contact Jenny at [jdahlk@worksmartnetwork.org](mailto:jdahlk@worksmartnetwork.org) to learn more about this opportunity.

# Upcoming Events

**Click Thru Job Fair**

January 27, 2021

[Visit Site](#)

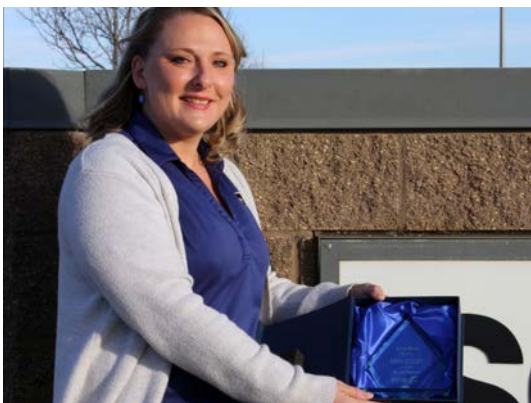
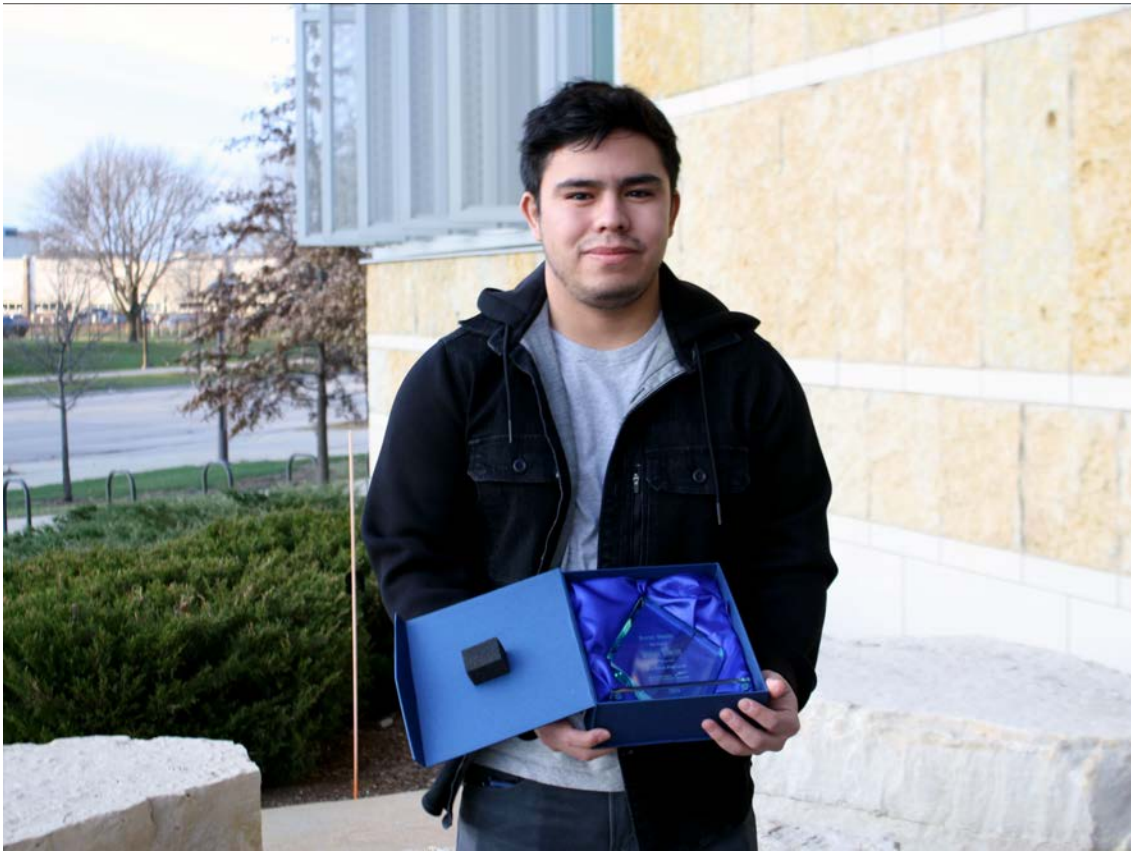
# A Look Back At 2020

In 2020, we helped laid off workers gain new skills, connected job seekers to local companies at the Drive Thru Job Fairs and celebrated graduations including the WRTP/Big STEP ceremony.

- Our Drive Thru Job Fairs connected 867 job seekers to local companies with great positions.
- The 2020 WDBSCW Annual Awards Celebration highlighted the achievements of seven Aspire and Champions in Action awardees.
- Nine individuals gained new skills thanks to the WRTP/Big STEP training.

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## 2020 WDBSCW Annual Awards Celebration





Thank you for joining us to celebrate another great year filled with programs, partnerships and inspiring success stories!

This year we honored five individuals with the Aspire Award for their success and achievements in workforce programs. The awardees participated on a panel to share their experiences.

This year we honored five individuals with the Aspire Award for their outstanding success and achievements in our workforce development programs. The awardees participated on a panel during the meeting to share their experiences overcoming obstacles to achieve their goals.

We also honored two community leaders with the Champions in Action Award. These awardees are committed to helping us find workforce solutions and connect individuals in the region to quality jobs.

*Photos from top to bottom: Manuel, Jacob, Amy, Amanda, DeeDee, Ann McNeary, Dawn Webber*

## Materials

**Annual Report**

[Go to Report](#)

**2020 Annual Awards Celebration Video**

[Watch Celebration](#)

# Drive Thru Job Fairs Connecting Workers to Employers



In an effort to help laid off workers transition to new employment, we restructured our job fair approach to a drive thru format. This fall, we hosted six Drive Thru Job Fair events in partnership with the WorkSmart Network and Job Service, and one Drive Thru Job Fair in partnership with the DeForest Windsor Area Chamber of Commerce.

At the job fairs, attendees received a bag filled with job leads from participating companies, all without leaving their vehicles.



After the success of our first Madison Drive Thru Job Fair in September, we expanded across the region to reach workers in Jefferson, Madison and Portage in September and again in Baraboo and Madison in October.

**A total of 867 job seekers attended the six job fairs across the region.**

The job fairs were part of a statewide effort by the workforce development boards and WWDA to help job seekers connect with local employers in a safe manner.

[Learn More](#)



### Stay Tuned for Future Recruitment Events

We're continuing to find new ways to connect job seekers to local companies that are hiring. Stay tuned for more job fairs, reverse recruitment events and more.

## WRTP/Big STEP Training Graduation



In September 2020, we celebrated the graduation of nine students from the WRTP/Big STEP MC3 cohort.

The training consisted of 120 hours of apprenticeship readiness instruction to prepare students for apprenticeships in the construction industry. The goal of the training is to increase diversity of apprenticeship candidates as well as increase the retention rate among apprentices. This training was supported by the State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) Grant.

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## Learning & Earning as a Steamfitter Apprentice

Jose was laid off in November 2019 and was referred to the WorkSmart Network by WRTP/Big STEP for assistance entering a steamfitter apprenticeship.

Although he knew there were many steamfitter apprenticeship applicants, Jose was adamant. He successfully completed the WRTP/Big STEP MC3 training, demonstrated outstanding workmanship and received good grades, despite English being his second language.

Within one month of completing the training, Jose was picked up out of hundreds of applicants by the contractor 1901 as a steamfitter apprentice earning \$18.17 per hour.

Jose's perseverance helped him obtain the apprenticeship in an extremely crowded field of applicants. He's excited about his career pathway and continues to learn new skills.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the training and help to hook me up with contractors and the union."

## In the News

[Manufacturers keep the lines running with drive-thru job fairs](#) - Read about the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board's Drive Thru Job Fair success in *HR Drive*.

**Cap Times Idea Fest: Panel discussed crucial next steps in strengthening local economy post-COVID** - Seth Lentz, WDBSCW CEO participated in a panel discussing economic expansion and recovery in the wake of the pandemic.

Reported in *The Cap Times*.

**Where Can Out-Of-Work Wisconsinites Find Jobs?** - Tens of thousands of people remain out of work in Wisconsin as a result of the pandemic. Seth Lentz, WDBSCW CEO shares insights on the industries searching for workers right now.

**Business Group Says Some Industries Still Dealing With Worker Shortage** - Seth Lentz, WDBSCW CEO, shares which industries are in need of workers in South Central Wisconsin.

# Stay safe and healthy!

P.S. We're Social! Come join us.



**Our mission is to build public and private partnerships that support innovation and excellence in workforce development.**

*The WorkSmart Network and Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin are equal opportunity employer/program service providers. This product was created with funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). If you need assistance to access our services in a different language or need this material in an alternative format, contact us. Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired callers may reach us by using Wisconsin Relay Services at 711. Proud partners of the American Job Center network.*

**Our mailing address is:**  
3513 Anderson Street, Suite 105

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