



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Hello!

Happy New Year!

As we look back on 2022, we're grateful for our public and private sector partners for helping us to support job seekers, workers and businesses as they strive to reach new levels.

In the last few weeks of 2022, we packed in some great events and new resources across our programs, including:

- our 2022 Annual Awards Celebration;
- a cookie decorating and holiday card design night with YAC;
- National Apprenticeship Week events;
- a new Earn and Learn Toolkit from Jobs for the Future; and
- the Electrical Maintenance Academy graduation.

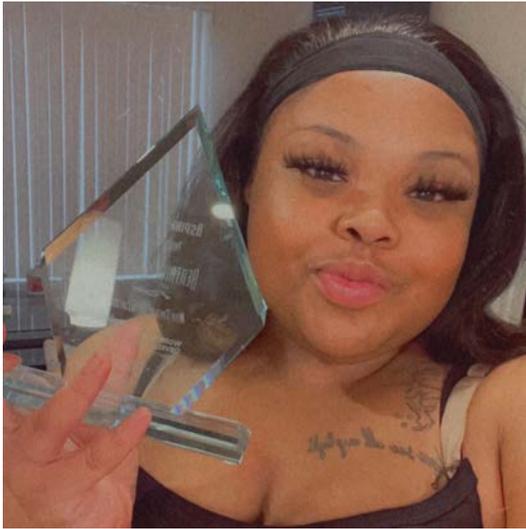
Reflect back on 2022 through our [Annual Report](#). This report contains articles of our programs last year, as well as stories featuring participants who achieved their career or training goals.

We are excited to introduce new programs and initiatives through our partnerships in the new year.

Stay safe and stay involved.

Seth Lentz and the WDBSCW team





2022 Annual Awards Celebration

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the 2022 Annual Awards Celebration on December 7! The WDBSCW honored five individuals with the Aspire Award and two community leaders with the Champions in Action Award.

The Aspire Award recognizes individuals for their achievements in the WDBSCW's workforce development programs that are offered in collaboration with the WorkSmart Network and partners. Awardees exemplified aspiration to build themselves up to their fullest potential despite the setbacks that arose.

Since 1994, the WDBSCW has recognized companies and leaders for their commitment and support in moving individuals into quality jobs and building workforce solutions. The awardees advocate for innovative workforce solutions as well as lead the development of new strategies and actively implement new initiatives with us.

Awardees pictured in order:

- Charlotte Ann Parker (Aspire Award recipient)
- Beatrice Rogers (Aspire Award recipient)
- Avery Lettman (Aspire Award recipient)
- Rae Laughnan-Watin (Aspire Award recipient)
- Sara Ariss (Aspire Award recipient)
- Badger Prairie Needs Network - Award accepted by Karen Dettinger (Champions in Action Award recipient)
- Tracey Griffith, Walbec Group (Champions in Action Award recipient)

If you missed the event or want to rewatch the award interviews, visit our YouTube channel to view the entire event.

Watch Video



Holiday Cheer with YAC

We're keeping young adults engaged and having fun through the monthly Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meetings. In December, YAC members spread holiday cheer by decorating cookies and designing cards to send to youth still in foster care.

YAC is a youth-led group that consists of current and former foster care young adults. Members advocate and educate governmental systems and the public on issues surrounding the foster care system.



Highlighting Apprenticeship Pipelines During National Apprenticeship Week

Apprenticeships are a proven workforce strategy to strengthen talent and we highlighted this programming during National Apprenticeship Week (November 14 - 20, 2022).

We hosted a Youth Apprenticeship (YA) 101 session to encourage businesses to hire and train youth apprentices. Local leaders spoke on the benefits of apprenticeships, as well as debunked myths about hiring and working with youth. This event was hosted in partnership with the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and State of Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards.

National Apprenticeship Week promotes and celebrates the role Registered Apprenticeships (RA) play in helping workers earn while they learn. RAs also support employers' investment in developing and retaining their workforce.

The WDBSCW is proud to be the South Central Youth Apprenticeship Consortium Administrator. The WDBSCW, along with the consortium partners Dane County Schools Consortium and the Jefferson Consolidated School District, are dedicated to the promotion and expansion of both YA and RA in the South Central region.

Learn more about apprenticeships on our website.

[Learn More](#)

Earn & Learn Toolkit from JFF

[Jobs for the Future \(JFF\)](#) created a toolkit to help small and medium-sized businesses explore various earn and learn models.

These models - like paid internships, Registered Apprenticeships and on-the-job training - can help businesses by connecting them to a broader, more diverse pool of workers to fill critical skills and labor gaps, while reducing the costs to recruit and onboard new workers.

This toolkit was created with support from the SkillUp Coalition and funding from Google.org.

JFF is a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems. For more than 35 years, JFF has led the way in designing innovative and scalable solutions that create access to economic advancement for all. The WDBSCW contributes its voice and insights to JFF in various initiatives focused on the workforce systems across the nation.

Check out the On-the-Job Training page in the toolkit for some of our program success stories.

[Learn More](#)



Electrical Maintenance Academy Graduation

In December 2022, 9 participants celebrated their graduation from the Electrical Maintenance Academy at Madison College.

The goal of this training was to help incarcerated individuals acquire skills to support their reentry into the community, while ultimately aiming to reduce recidivism.

This academy was hosted in partnership with the WDBSCW/WorkSmart Network, Madison College and the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections.



Windows to Work Program

Our Windows to Work participants are earning an average hourly wage of **\$15.50** after they are released back into the community.

Source: [Becky Young Recidivism Reduction Annual Report, 2021](#)

In the News

[Inmate Serving Time After 5 OWIs Impresses with Commencement Speech](#) - Wisconsin State Journal, December 21, 2022

['Started from the bottom': Incarcerated Grads Earn Madison College Diplomas](#) - The Cap Times, December 20, 2022

[Students Graduate from Program Aiming to Give Those Behind Bars a Second Chance](#) - Channel 3000, December 20, 2022

[WorkSmart Smartly Works with Locals to Find Smart Work](#) - WiscNews, October 7, 2022

["Leadership Development Academy" Graduates Recognized; Opportunities, Inc. Hosts Ceremony](#) - Fort Atkinson Online, October 27, 2022

Upcoming Events

WDBSCW Full Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location TBD

Jefferson County Job Fair

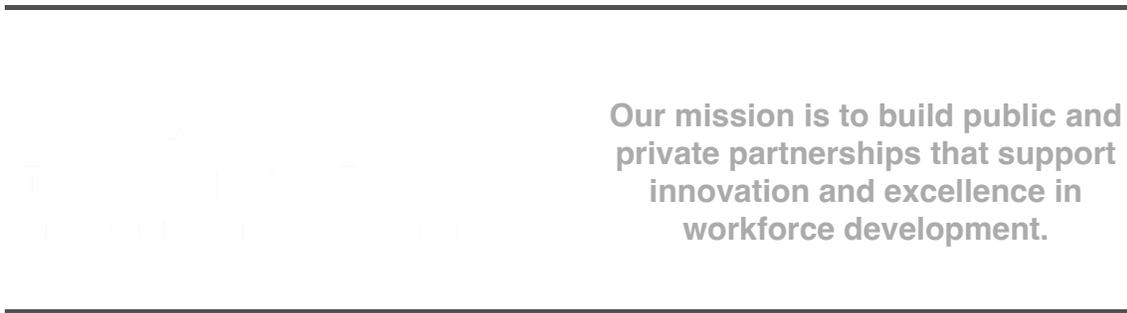
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Workforce Development Center of Jefferson County
[874 Collins Road, Jefferson](#)

Youth Apprenticeship (YA) 101 Session

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Plastic Ingenuity (1017 Park Street, Cross Plains)
[Register Now](#)

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 104
Madison, WI 53704

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