

WELCOME TO THE PELL GRANT/APPROVED TRAINING WEBINAR

Our Presenters Include:

Gay Gilbert, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance;
Yvette Chocolaad, Director, Center for Employment Security, Education and Research, NASWA
Elisabeth Buck, Director, Iowa Workforce Development

WE WILL BEGIN AT 3:00 EASTERN TIME

**Pell Grant Webinar
Gay Gilbert**

Administrator, Office of
Unemployment
Insurance, U.S.
Department of Labor

President's Pell Grant Initiative

GOAL:

Enabling more workers to obtain job training while receiving unemployment benefits so they can develop their skills while the economy recovers.

Department of Education's Role

- Encouraging financial aid administrators to use their discretion in determining eligibility for Pell Grants for applicants who have lost their jobs

USDOL's Role

Strongly encourage states to:

- Broaden their definitions of “approved training” for UI claimants during economic downturns
- Notify UI claimants of the potential eligibility for Pell Grants
- Help UI claimants apply for Pell Grants through One-Stop Career Centers

State Challenges

- Managing claimant notification in the midst of already overwhelming workload
- State law issues with expanding “approved training” policies
- Ensuring claimants received good information on the impact of their decision to pursue a Pell grant
- Financial Aid Officers with varying interpretations of Education’s policy

State Innovations

- Use of multiple media to get the word to claimants
- Strengthened relationships between UI and One-Stops
- New business processes to better support service delivery to UI claimants
- Development of strong partnerships with colleges/financial aid offices and

NASWA Survey on the President’s Initiative on Pell Grants and “Approved Training” for UI Beneficiaries

Yvette J. Chocolaad
Director, Center for
Employment Security,
Education and Research,
NASWA

Pell Grants

TEGL 21-08



States are asked to send each UI Claimant a letter:

- Describing the Pell Grant program,
- Directing them to information about Pell Grants, and
- Explaining UI Claimants can continue to receive UI benefits while in training with the state's approval.

States' Responsiveness to Pell Grant Initiative

- 39 states sent Pell Grant letters to claimants (another state was in process).
- 4 states elected to provide information in alternate format.
- 3 states reported policies on degree track programs are not consistent with the initiative.
- 2 states reported workload or funding barriers.

Other Findings: Pell Grant Initiative

- Roughly 10 states reported a heavy response to the mailing (more traffic at One-Stops, inquiries to call center, requests for approved training)
- **Some of the ways states dealt with the new challenges:** Established a dedicated phone line; Referred calls to the Education Department; Facilitated additional workshops.
- Initiative encouraged collaboration and dialogue between workforce and education agencies.

HOW HAVE STATES RESPONDED TO THE PRESIDENT'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO WIDEN THE DEFINITION OF "APPROVED TRAINING"?

- Forty (40) percent of states report expanding the definition of "approved training"

Example 1: Michigan

“Additional types of training which may now be approved include: remedial courses, post-secondary education, part-time training, online courses, out-of-state training.”

Example 2: Rhode Island

“Our policy on approved training has expanded to include college-level courses in degree programs and other courses not listed on the eligible training provider list which are expected to improve the UI customer’s long-term employability in growing industries.”

Example 3: West Virginia

“By policy interpretation we have extended eligibility for benefits to claimants who take advantage of the Pell Grant resources to further their education and we allow WIA approved training at the Commissioner’s discretion.”

Findings: State UI Training Policies in Specific Areas

- *WIA training* is automatically considered “approved training” in 45 out of 49 states (42 states before the Recovery Act).
- Thirty states (30) allow some *four-year post-secondary programs* as “approved training” (26 states before the Recovery Act).
- Thirty states (30) allow some *academic courses not leading to a specific occupation* as “approved training” (28 states before the Recovery Act).

TRAINING AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHLS): IS IT CONSIDERED “APPROVED TRAINING”?

- Programs with job skills components: 47 of 49 states
- Courses leading to general high school equivalency diplomas: 38 of 49 states
- Courses in adult basic education: 40 of 49 states
- English as a second language courses: 36 of 49 states
- Other courses of study (including degree and certificate programs) likely to increase the individual's long-term employability: 42 of 48 states

How have state UI and workforce agencies cooperated to review policies on state-approved training for UI claimants?

Example 1: Maine

“We worked together to get the Unemployment Insurance Commission to issue a blanket approval for WIA-approved courses and training providers ... and we also created a webpage on our department's website dedicated to approved training information and have linked the WIA-approved training list to the UI site. UI also continues to send the federal training letter on Pell Grants to UI claimants every week.”

Example 2: Rhode Island

“Our UI and Workforce Development offices worked closely to develop policies regarding Pell Grant and Approved Training expansions. The development of our Pell Grant/Approved Training web page was the result of a collaboration between both divisions, and the two divisions communicate regularly on the new policies and the individuals requesting approved training.”

Center for Employment Security
Education and Research
National Association of State
Workforce Agencies
444 N. Capitol St, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Elisabeth Buck
Iowa Workforce Development
Director



MAILER ONE, WITCC

A promotional graphic for WITCC. The background is green with a grid pattern. On the left, the text "Your New Career" is written in large, yellow, outlined letters. To the right, "Starts HERE!" is written in orange and white. Below this, the website "www.meetYOURnewcareer.com" is displayed in a white rounded rectangle. The graphic includes several small inset photos: two men working at a computer, a man working on a server rack, and a woman working at a desk. A larger photo of a woman in a light blue shirt holding a folder is on the right. The WITCC logo is in the bottom right corner.

Your New Career Starts Here!

Dear Fellow Iowan:

Western Iowa Tech Community College and Iowa Workforce Development want to help you "Meet Your New Career". If the recent down economy has presented you with difficult times, we have the solution. Our CareerPath program is tailored to the adult learner with the job training and career related services you need to succeed. Whether it's a single course, or an entire program, we have offerings specifically designed for busy schedules.

You will be assigned a Career Coach to help you complete financial aid forms, assist in registering for classes, and to find a career that best suits you. There is financial assistance available to help pay for the job training you may need. We would be happy to visit with you in person to outline the various types of aid packages available and to explain our many services and job training options.

Please call us today or complete the attached information card and return it to us postage-free. A Career Coach will contact you to assist with any questions you might have. You may also visit www.meetyournewcareer.com for more information. We look forward to meeting with you and introducing you to your Career Coach, our faculty, and staff.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information about Western Iowa Tech or Iowa Workforce Development services, please contact the numbers below. We are here to help you start your new career!

Best regards,
 Dr. Robert Dunker
 President, Western Iowa Tech Community College

Elizabeth Buck
 Director, Iowa Workforce Development

Diane Nierl
 Regional Manager, Iowa Workforce Development









712-233-9938
www.iowaworkforce.org

712-376-6400
www.witcc.edu



Western Iowa Tech Community College
 4647 Stone Avenue • Sioux City, IA 51106
 800-352-4649

Flexibility

- Day, evening, weekend & online classes
- Schedule classes to fit your life

Options

- Wide range of career & technical programs
- Find your perfect career match

Assistance

- Individual career coaches
- Financial aid available

www.meetyournewcareer.com



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Tell Us About YOU!

Name _____

Address _____ Gender Male Female

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone Number _____

Email _____

Best way to contact Email Phone Mail Best time to contact _____

I am interested in the following:

Financial Aid

Programs

GED

Job Placement Assistance

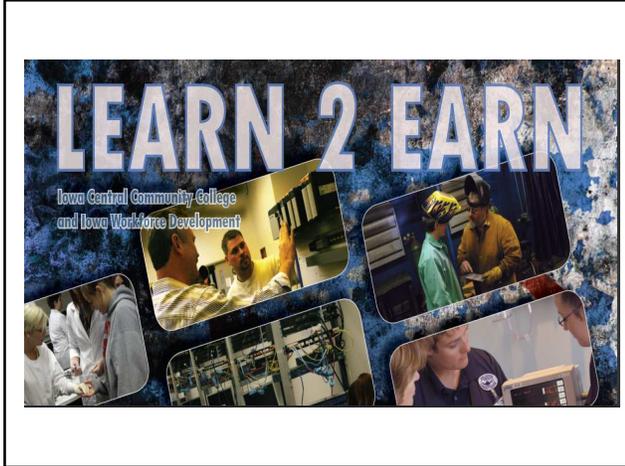
Other _____





www.meetyournewcareer.com

MAILER TWO, ICC



I will attend the session on March 5th (held in Webster City) March 20th April 16th May 21st

Name _____

Address _____ Gender Male Female

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone Number _____

Email _____

I would like someone to contact me about the following:

Filing for Financial Aid

Training programs Iowa Central has to offer

GED (I did not graduate from High School)

Job Searching Assistance

Other _____

MAILER THREE, KIRKWOOD

Local high-demand careers with endless growth potential are out there. You just need the education and training.



HIGH DEMAND JOBS | Start Here.

Start Here, Go Anywhere Info Session

Kirkwood has many diverse resources to help dislocated workers and people receiving unemployment. Come to an information session and learn about:

- Dislocated Worker and Reemployment Resources
- Short-term Training
- Kirkwood's tailored adult student services
- Financial Aid
- Career Services

Plus, there will be break-out sessions covering educational opportunities in these high demand occupational fields:

- Industrial Technologies
- Hospitality programs
- Information Technology and Business
- Health Careers

No matter what you're interested in, whether it's short-term training, help with reemployment or a full two-year degree, you can receive one-on-one help from professionals. At Kirkwood, you really can start here and go anywhere!

Register now! www.kirkwood.edu/starthere or (319) 398-5105

MONDAY, APRIL 5 | 2-4 p.m.
Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services
3375 Armair Dr., Marion, IA

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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PO Box 2099
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
www.kirkwood.edu

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Cedar Rapids, IA
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IOWA PELL GRANT LETTER

Chester J. Culver, Governor
Patty Judge, Lt. Governor
Elisabeth Buck, Director



Letter Head

DATE

«4 Digit SSN»

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street_Address»
«Address_Line2»
«City», «State» «Zip5»

Dear «First_Name»:

Recent legislation at both the state and federal level has created new opportunities for individuals receiving unemployment to pursue education and training opportunities without losing unemployment insurance benefits. On March 25th, Governor Chet Culver signed into law the Iowa Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act, which, among other things, provides Iowans with the opportunity to secure an additional 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits while in an approved training program for high-growth high-demand occupations. A listing of the occupations can be found at www.iowaworkforce.org/trainingextensionbenefits/.

On May 8th, President Obama announced that individuals who are getting unemployment insurance benefits will receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for additional job training or higher education. Studies have shown that Iowans with more education and training have more secure jobs and earn a higher income.

Unemployed Iowans may be able to receive a Federal Pell Grant scholarship to cover up to \$5,350 in education and training expenses such as tuition, books and supplies. They are accepted at nearly all universities and community colleges and many trade and technical schools. A Pell Grant can only be used to obtain one Bachelor's Degree, but even if you do not qualify for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other financial aid.

There are a multitude of resources available for researching and applying for financial aid opportunities. The US Department of Education and Labor have created www.opportunity.gov to provide detailed information. The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC) provides a vast array of resources and assistance. Information is available at www.iowacollegeaid.org or 877-272-4456. Additionally, a number of programs exist for Iowa workers who lost their job due to a layoff or plant closing that can assist with the costs of training. Contact your local workforce center in «Local_Office_City» at «Local_Office_Address».

If you are interested in pursuing retraining or other education opportunities, you should:

- Determine what type of training or educational opportunity best meets your needs. You may want to visit your local Iowa Workforce Development Center in «Local_Office_City» and utilize a multitude of career exploration and skill assessment tools; access Labor Market and Workforce Information at www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi; visit a local community college or other institution to explore

opportunities; or contact the Iowa College Student Aid Commission for assistance with exploring educational avenues at www.iowacollegeaid.org.

- Educational institutions, ICSAC or Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) can provide assistance and direction for completing the Pell Grant scholarship and other financial aid application. Applications are also available 24/7 at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 800-4FEDAID during business hours. While you will need to report last year's income when applying, your educational institution can adjust your eligibility to reflect your current circumstances.
- Additionally, you will need to contact the «Local_Office_City» Workforce Development Center at «Local_Office_Address» in advance of enrolling to ensure that you can continue to receive unemployment benefits while enrolled in the program you have chosen. Not every training program available excuses you from the requirement that you seek and are available for work in order to receive unemployment insurance benefits.
- For individuals in need of a GED, it is possible to attend these classes and maintain your unemployment insurance benefits. GED classes are available in Iowa through local community colleges, GED OnDemand through Mediacom Cable and other locations. Your local Iowa Workforce Development Center can provide you with information on the closest facility.
- For individuals lacking basic computer skills, introductory level classes are available in communities across the state. Iowa Workforce Development can provide you with information on what's available in your area.

It's important that you take this letter to the school you select. For the next 90 days, it confirms that you are an unemployment insurance beneficiary. While it does not guarantee you a Pell Grant, your school will use this letter to adjust your eligibility. After 90 days, or if you lose this letter, you may provide alternative documentation that you are currently receiving unemployment insurance. Contact your local Iowa Workforce Development Center and request a payment history for your unemployment insurance benefits.

While both the national and Iowa economies have been struggling, it's important that we use this time to improve the skills of our workforce. As the economy rebounds and grows, Iowa's 21st century opportunities will require 21st century skill sets. I encourage you to consider this opportunity to improve your skills.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Buck

Elisabeth Buck
Director, Iowa Workforce Development

Resources

- **TEGL No. 21-08**
http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2752
- **Secretary Arne Duncan's Professional Judgement "Dear Colleague" Letter, April 9, 2009**
<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN0904.html>
- **View Archived Pell Grant Initiative Webinar**
<http://www.workforce3one.org/view/3000920462713120553/info>
- **Webinar Slides**
<http://www.workforce3one.org/view/2000920246105117578/info>

Questions and Answers