

# Workforce and Employer Support Update

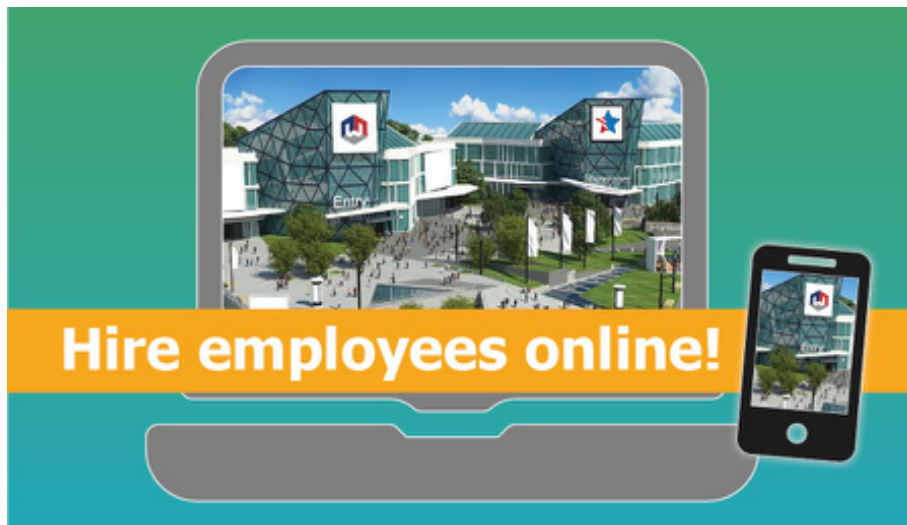
APRIL - JUNE 2021



DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE  
SERVICES**



## JOB FAIRS & HIRING EVENTS



### First Annual UZONA Chamber Business Expo and Career Fair

In April, the UZONA Chamber of Commerce held the Business Expo & Career Fair at Water Canyon High School in Hildale. The chamber serves communities in southern Utah and northern Arizona. Keynote opening remarks included Water Canyon High School Principal Showalter, UZONA Chamber President, Carole Jones, Utah Representative Lowry Snow and Expo Planning Committee Chair Matthew Zitting. In addition to 46 business booths, the expo included breakout sessions on resume writing, interviewing, personal finance, business credit, winning grants and more.

### More than 300 Employers Seek Employees at Statewide Virtual Job Fair

Workforce Services partnered with the Utah Association of Colleges and Employers to host a statewide Virtual Career Fair in June. Eleven colleges and universities attracted more than 300 employers offering more than 5,000 open positions. More than 700 job seekers attended the job fair which expanded this month to include five pavilions: general, college, teleworking, government jobs, and the college and university booths. The next virtual job fair is July 8. Employers and job seekers can register at [jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov).

### An Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities to Find Employment

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) hosted the Spring Virtual Work Ability Job Fair in April. The fair was open to all individuals with disabilities, from youth to adults and featured more than 35 business partners from the People with Disabilities Network. By transitioning to the virtual platform, we expanded access for employers to connect with job seekers. The next job fair is on September 14, 2021.

### Grantsville High School Job Fair

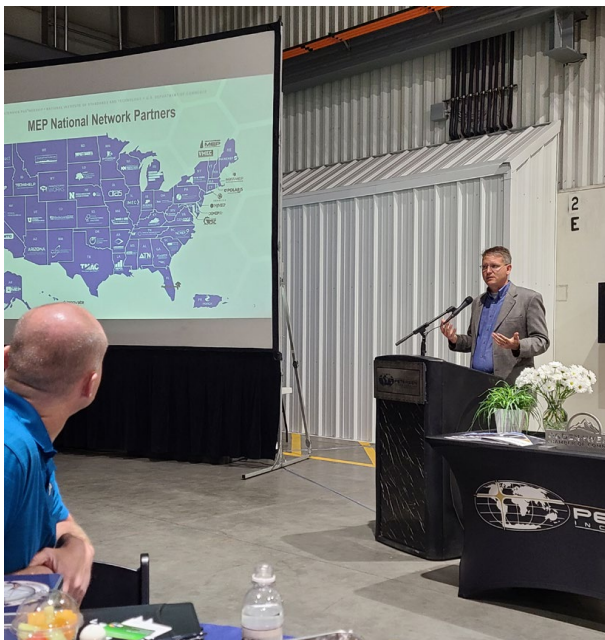
Workforce Services participated in this job fair where more than 200 participants visited 22 business/community partner booths. Workforce Services shared information about how to register for employment as well as Career and Education assistance.



## EMPLOYER SUPPORT

### State of Manufacturing in Weber County

Darren Rogers, Wasatch Front North Workforce Development Specialist, serves on the Ogden Chamber Executive Board as a chair of the Workforce Committee. June's Executive Board and Board of Governors meeting met at Petersen Inc. to discuss the state of manufacturing in Weber County. Steve Black from MEP spoke on the growth of manufacturing in Utah, which is



the second leading industry of the state's GDP. Winn Jeanfreau, executive director of iMpacT Utah, spoke on the current state of manufacturing and unique issues addressing the labor shortage and supply chain.

Also, this quarter, Michael Jeanfreau, Northern Utah Area Economist, presented to the Ogden Chamber Workforce Committee Chamber members on Utah's labor market and the economy. Job growth, industry challenges, unemployment rates, future hiring trends and an influx of

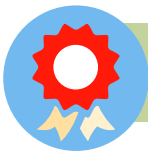
workers to meet the workforce shortage were also among the presentation points shared with the attendees. Thirty local employers who are currently struggling with staffing needs attended. Rogers presented incentives for employers such as the Federal Bonding Program as one resource for employers to access as they work with unique populations to meet a tight workforce market.

### Business Expo Event in Vernal

On May 19, Workforce Development Specialist Judianne Collins and service area director Zac Whitwell sponsored a booth at the Vernal Business Expo Event that had 80 business entrepreneurs in attendance from the area. They shared current county labor market information, local economic trends and Workforce Development Division resources and program information to give employers more tools for connecting with job seekers during a tight labor market.

### Job Fair for Jordan and Granite School Districts

Workforce Services partnered with Chamber West and the Jordan and Granite School Districts for the first in-person job fair in April. The event was held at Granger High school and targeted students for employment. There were 73 employers present, and with appropriate social distancing per health department guidelines. The event was from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., with the first two hours reserved for students and the remaining two hours open to the general public. Students were required to register for the event, so their numbers combined with the general public totaled 1000 participants. A fall event is scheduled at a different high school, again sponsored by Chamber West.



## CAREER & EDUCATION



### New Campaign Aims to Build Utah Workforce

Workforce Services launched a new campaign to help job seekers improve their career paths and provide a more skilled workforce for Utah employers. The campaign includes a revamped website to make it easier for individuals to apply for assistance — [jobs.utah.gov/career](https://jobs.utah.gov/career). The Career and Education Assistance program can provide:

- Short-term training assistance for occupational certificates or licenses.
- On-the-job training directly from employers.
- Apprenticeships for classroom learning and paid hands-on experience in the field.
- Tuition assistance to help complete a GED certificate or college degree.

Financial assistance is available for eligible individuals over the age of 14, those who have been laid off or those who have a qualifying income. Workforce development employees are doing outreach throughout Utah to promote the benefits of Career and Education Services.

### Congratulations Apprenticeship Graduates

Melisa Stark, Commissioner of Apprenticeship Programs for Utah, provided the opening remarks at the graduation ceremony of Associated General Contractors apprentices. Melisa applauded the group for their commitment to working hard and advancing their careers, highlighting all the doors that apprenticeship completion can open for them. The graduates received their certificates of completion from the Department of Labor, along with Carhartt vests and a cash bonus.

### Graduation Ceremonies Honor 1,829 Students

Adult Education programs across the state held their graduation ceremonies to honor students who have worked hard to complete their diplomas during the 2020-2021 school year. So far this school year, 1,143 students have earned an Adult Secondary Diploma, and 686 students have completed their GED. These graduates



came from areas all across the state and range in age from 16 to 78. The oldest enrolled student this year is 96. It's inspiring to see students who have persisted through various obstacles to complete their diploma, including this mother and daughter who graduated from the Ashley Valley Education Center in Vernal, UT, in May.

### Disability Mentoring Event with Goldman Sachs

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation partnered with Goldman Sachs to host a virtual mentoring event for students with disabilities. This mentoring event provided a unique opportunity for more than 20 students to talk with our partners at Goldman Sachs and learn about their business and career pathways within their organization. The students also received guidance on how to prepare for the world of work and potential internship opportunities.



# WHAT'S NEXT

- July 8: Statewide Virtual Job Fair
- July 13: Disability: IN Lunch and Learn on Adaptive Recreation
- August 5: Statewide Virtual Job Fair
- September 14: Employer Workshop for Hiring and Retaining People with Disabilities
- October 5: Work Ability Career Exploration and Job Fair
- October 13: Golden Key Awards

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES STATEWIDE



### BEAR RIVER WASATCH FRONT NORTH

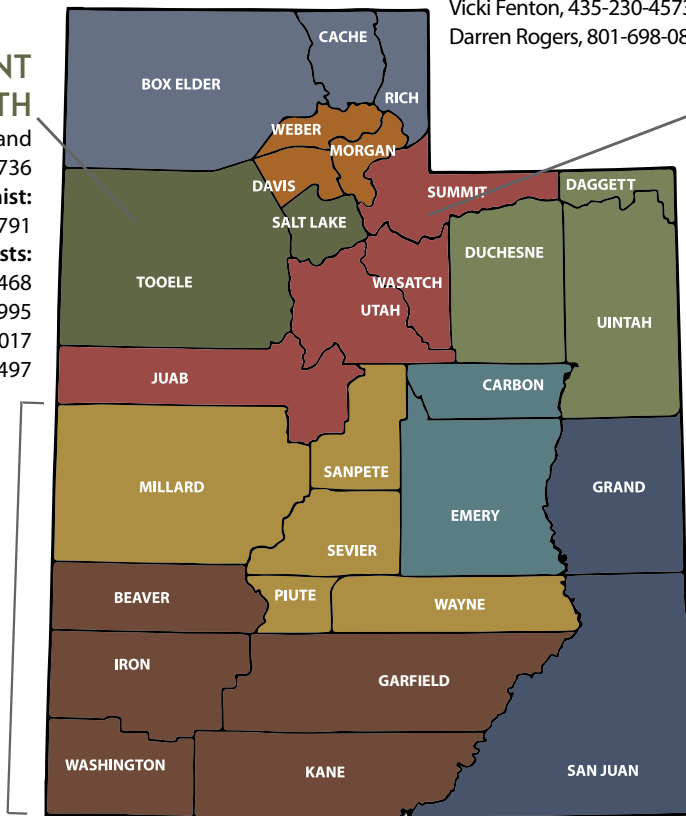
**Director:** TBD  
**Economist:** Michael Jeanfreau, 801-526-9403  
**Workforce Development Specialists:**  
 Eden Johnson, 435-230-8766  
 Vicki Fenton, 435-230-4573  
 Darren Rogers, 801-698-0899

### WASATCH FRONT SOUTH

**Director:** Yvette Woodland  
 801-269-4736  
**Economist:**  
 Lyndsey Stram, 801-526-9791  
**Workforce Development Specialists:**  
 Julie Lay, 801-518-2468  
 Gary Kimber, 801-300-1995  
 Debra Nordfelt, 801-635-5017  
 Maren Stevens, 801-694-3497

### MOUNTAINLAND

**Director:**  
 John Talcott, 385-224-7080  
**Economist:**  
 Lyndsey Stram, 801-526-9791  
**Workforce Development Specialists:**  
 Bryan Kessinger, 801-400-9935  
 Patrick Donegan, 801-885-5633  
 Amy Lowe, 385-222-5629



### CENTRAL UTAH SOUTHWEST

**Director:** David Busk  
 435-865-6533  
**Economist:** Lecia Parks Langston  
 435-688-3115  
**Workforce Development Specialists:**  
 Forest Turner, 435-201-2987  
 Mark Tilby, 435-668-7387

### UINTAH BASIN CASTLE COUNTRY SOUTHEAST

**Director:** Zac Whitwell, 435-630-1891  
**Economist:**  
 Mark Knold, 801-526-9458  
**Workforce Development Specialist:**  
 Judianne Collins, 435-650-7900

**Workforce Development Division Director:** Loggins Merrill, 801-526-4370  
**Employer Initiatives Manager:** TBD

06/18/2021  
 10-40-0521



### HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES STATEWIDE

Leah Lobato, leahlobato@utah.gov  
 Jake Marino, jmarino@utah.gov  
 Josh Rodeback, jrodeback@utah.gov