



### Workforce Development Professionals are everywhere!



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#### **How did you get started in workforce development?**

My first position in what we now describe as workforce development was as a Learning Center Instructor. At the time, I was employed by Training and Development Corporation in Bangor, ME, who operated Career Advancement Centers. Although I enjoyed my work helping to increase the academic skills of program participants, I found myself drawn to guiding customers in developing career goals and finding employment. In the beginning, I

specialized in working with Dislocated Workers. Due to my experience, I was often called to coordinate large Dislocated Worker Projects. In my area of Maine, we worked with many closures of small, medium, and large manufacturing companies. I have held many positions over the years including Senior Career Advisor, Project Manager, and Rapid Response Coordinator and currently I am a Career Pathways Manager.

#### **If you could give one piece of advice to a new workforce professional, what would it be?**

I quickly realized and understood the importance of learning everything I could about workforce development. I have always tried to take advantage of training opportunities whenever they become available. I have supplemented training with reading online publications as well as reviewing webinars. Even though I have been

involved with workforce development for over 28 years, I strive to keep up with what other organizations are doing across the country and incorporate those ideas into the work that I do today. Most important is to develop professional relationships with workforce partners and understanding how to collaborate with them.

#### **What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?**

I find the information learned from the NAWDP newsletter and webinars to be the most pertinent for anyone involved in workforce development.

The NAWDP email updates concerning WIA Program funding and the passing of WIOA were very beneficial. Generally, I learn this type of news

from NAWDP quicker than other informational resources. I enjoy the webinar offerings which I

have incorporated into my organization's staff development training.

**What is the most exciting thing about being a workforce development professional?**

I most enjoy the greater emphasis on increased service to employers; which helps us to better understand their expectation of employees. It has allowed my organization to create customized training so that our jobseeker customers are better

prepared for the workforce. I am excited that WIOA is pushing us toward even greater collaboration and increased participation with partners, which will increase our customers' opportunities for success.

**Why did you apply for the CWDP?**

The human resources director of my company had learned of the NAWDP Annual Conference which was scheduled to be held in Philadelphia that year. US DOL had just produced the O\*NET which was created to take the place of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. She thought it would be a good idea to send staff from my company to do

presentations at the conference. I was assigned to develop a session on how to use the O\*NET as a Workforce Development Tool for Counselor and she was going to explain as how to utilize it as an HR Professional. An important first step was for us to join NAWDP and obtain our CWDP certification.