

JOB SERVICE - BISMARCK Workforce Center

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER/2023

NORTH
Dakota | Bismarck Workforce Center
Be Legendary.™ JOB SERVICE

Meeting workforce needs.

Bismarck Con•nect•or

a short road or highway that connects
two longer roads or highways



TOP NEWS

- Veteran Services - Recognizing Veterans
- Employment Services Team featuring - Foreign Labor Certification - H2A
- Labor Market Information
- Save the date... Job Fair
- Featured Employer - North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association partnering with Registered Apprenticeship

Veterans Day has its origins at the end of World War I when at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the fighting ended with the signing of an armistice. U.S. Soldiers celebrate the armistice that ended World War I, Nov. 11, 1918.

Veterans Day

We at Job Service recognize the dedication and sacrifice of all our veterans. Job Service North Dakota is honored to offer Priority of Service to veterans and eligible spouses of Veterans.

Our Veteran's Employment Team can help Veterans work through barriers to employment. As veterans themselves, they can relate to the experiences and circumstances of individuals and advocate as they search for employment.

We appreciate all of our coworkers, staff and management, employers and job seekers that have served in the Armed Forces and wish you all the best going forward.



Fluctuation of Employment

Labor Market Information

The unemployment rate fluctuates throughout the year and follows a typical trend each year. The highest rate is during the winter months with the seasonal layoffs. After the winter months the rate declines until June when there is a slight increase with the seasonal layoffs from the school system's summer break. Year after year October is the month with the lowest unemployment rate. September 2023 the rate was at an all-time low of 1.3 %. With October typically being the lowest month, it will be interesting to see if we hit another all-time low.

Employment Services Team:

Employment advisors available to help with:

- Job Search
- Resumes / Cover Letters
- Online Applications
- Interview Preparation
- Career Changes
- Internet Navigation
- Labor Market Information

Wednesday Workshop Schedule

- 8:30am - Resource Room 101
- 9:15am- Applications & Job Scams
- 10:00am - Transferable Skills
- 10:45 am - Resumes & Cover Letters
- 11:30am - Interviews



Foreign Labor Certification - H2A

Agricultural employers struggle each year to find workers for seasonal jobs. As a result, employers depend on the H2A program to assist them in filling their positions by hiring nonimmigrant farmworkers. These jobs must be seasonal, and employers must show that they have made an effort to hire qualified domestic workers. Most of the workers come from South Africa, Mexico, Central America, and the Ukraine. Employers that use the H2A program can be nurseries, honey producers, field crop growers, custom combine operators, cattle ranchers, hay, grain, and wheat growers.

The Bismarck Job Service covers a 10-county area and is responsible for conducting housing inspections for agricultural employers who are requesting workers from outside of the United States. The housing inspection is just one step in the whole H2A process and if a housing unit doesn't meet standards, the employer must bring it up to standards so that housing can be approved and the worker eventually making travel arrangement to the United States. Along with the housing inspections, Job Service accepts job applications from qualified domestic workers wanting to apply for open positions.



H2A 2023 Fiscal Year

H2A Applications

1,097

H2B Applications

155

of H2A Workers Requested

3,572

of H2B Workers Requested

2,737

of Inspections

1,524



H2A Success Story

Vander Vorst Farm & Ranch, Strasburg

Farmer & Rancher Chad Vander Vorst took time out of the busy harvest season to share with us insights about his experience as an H2A Employer. Chad has been in the farming and cattle business since he was born. When he was very little, he would head out with his parents Monte and Judy to milk the cows, and ride along in the tractors and combines.

Chad began hiring H2A workers in 2020. His H2A employees have assisted with the livestock as ranch hands and have helped with the farm labor as agricultural equipment operators, plant cultivation and harvest workers. Currently, he employs six H2A participants. He cites the lack of available people as the main reason for

utilizing the H2A program. "It has been a positive experience using the program" he said. Chad shared that his workers are from Brazil and South Africa. They often mention how difficult it is to find a job in their home countries. They have also stated crime, violence, inadequate healthcare, and inflation as being factors in deciding to seek employment in the United States.

"There are always pros and cons on everything. The cost would be a con, and I can't forget to mention that is concerning not being able to find local help. But hiring people from less fortunate countries made me realize how blessed we are."



Chris Smith

DVOP Business Services



Sidney Mick

Employment Advisor
H2A Inspector



Stan Marthaller

H2A Inspector

National

APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

NOVEMBER 13-19, 2023

It is with much excitement Job Service North Dakota is recognizing National Apprenticeship Week 2023! We have information and opportunities available for anyone interested in exploring apprenticeships or starting an apprenticeship program.

**National Apprenticeship Week
November 5th - 11th 2023**

Rural Outreach

The Bismarck Workforce Center provides regular rural outreach to the counties in our region.

2023 Job Service

Workforce Center

**BUSINESS SERVICES &
JOBS SEEKER ASSISTANCE**

- Washburn, McLean County - 1st Wednesday
- Garrison, McLean County - 2nd Tuesday
- Beulah, Mercer County - 2nd Wednesday
- Fort Yates, Sioux County - 2nd Thursday
- Steele, Kidder County - 3rd Tuesday
- Linton, Emmons County - 3rd Wednesday
- Carson, Grant County - 4th Thursday
- McClusky, Sheridan County - By Appointment
- Center, Oliver County - By Appointment



Arrangements can be made for virtual or in person Meetings at your location of choice. To schedule call 701-328-5000

Apprenticeship Employment

ND Rural Water Systems Association is an example of an employer with an apprenticeship program. Water and Wastewater Systems Operations Specialists are vital to communities for access to clean drinking water and to ensure wastewater effluent is returned to the environment properly.

Over the next decade, the water sector is expected to lose between 30 and 50 percent of the workforce to retirement. Many of these employees have worked at the same utility for most of their careers, and they will depart with decades of valuable institutional knowledge.

A vast majority of rural and small community water systems have been unable to attract, train and retain the next generation workforce.



2024

CAPITAL CAREER

FAIR

 **BISMARCK
EVENT CENTER**

Joshua Randolph- BSC
joshua.randolph.1@bismarckstate.edu

Job Service Business Services
infojsbis@nd.gov (701) 328-5031

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024
2:00pm - 6:00pm Central

<https://www.jobsnd.com/capitalcareerfair>

Important Contact Information:

Bismarck Workforce Center - 701.328.5000
infojsbis@nd.gov
Unemployment Insurance Claims -
701.328.4995
Unemployment Insurance Employer -
701.328.2866
Employer Unemployment Tax - 701.328.2814

Recurring Local Events:

- Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library - 1st Tuesday of every month, 1-5pm
- Workforce Wednesday Hiring Event - 1st Wednesday of every month, 3-5pm
- Job Readiness Workshops - Every Wednesday, 8:30-12pm
- Dream Center - 2nd Monday of every month, 5-7pm
- Morton Mandan Public Library - 3rd Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30pm
- Dream Center - 4th Tuesday of every month, 7-9am

Other Resources:

Secretary of State - 701.328.2900
Workforce Safety Insurance - 800.777.5033
Department of Labor 701.328.2600

**NORTH
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Be Legendary.™ | **JOB SERVICE**

Respectful | Loyal | Collaborative | Purposeful
#JobUpND

