

## The Bismarck Con•nect•or

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



### TOP NEWS

- WIOA Success Story
- Job Fair Recap
- Meet the Staff
- Upcoming Events

### WIOA Success Story- Lynnes Welding Training

From a young age, Zachery Gerving has been interested in welding. He grew up watching his great grandpa weld and wanted to be just like him when he was older. Zach's interest really took off when he was a freshman in high school and he was able to take his first welding class. From there, there was no

looking back. Zach's passion for welding grew the more he learned. He said that there is no better feeling than when you finish welding and you see the perfect look in a weld. To expand upon his welding knowledge, Zach wanted to attend Lynnes Welding Training Inc. To assist with the cost of tuition,

he applied to the WIOA program and was approved for funding. In working with the WIOA program, Zach gained the support and assistance needed to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to become a better welder. He graduated from Lynnes Welding Training on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Right after graduating, Zach was hired at Lynnes as an assistant to the instructor. Kristy and Mitch from Lynnes stated that "Zach stood out in class for his natural talent, positive attitude, willingness to work hard, and was always the first to help his fellow classmates." Kristy and Mitch felt that Zach would be a great confidant and role model for the next class of welding students, and it was an easy decision to hire him on. Zach continued to work at Lynnes until he was able to get his dream job at Coteau Freedom Mine as a welder. While they were sad to lose him, Kristy and Mitch stated that they love to see their students go off and live their dream. They both say with his dedication and ability to adapt, they would see him being a supervisor or trainer one day. As for Zach, he says that his goal in the next five years is to learn as much as he can from the old generation of welders in the mine, to continue to learn new welding techniques, and to make enough to start a family. With all Zach has going for him, there is little doubt that he will achieve all his goals and exceed his expectations!

# Meet the Staff: Employment Services Team

Employment advisors are available to assist with:

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



**Amy Nelson**

Title: Team Lead Employment Services  
Program/Role: Supervises Employment Services team, Coordinates community outreach activities  
Time with Job Service: 5 ½ Years  
Favorite Summer Activity: Lake floating on Lake Audubon



**Aimee Maxon**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: JP3 (Job Placement Partnership Program) Case Manager, MRCC Career Readiness Instructor  
Time with Job Service: 4 years, 8 mon.  
Favorite Summer Activity: Grillouts with family and friends



**Curtis Patzell**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: Resource Room Employment Advisor  
Time with Job Service: 3 years, 5 months  
Favorite Summer Activity: Fishing



**Lisa Omlid**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: BEST (Basic Employment Skills Training) and RSP (Reemployment Services Program) Case Manager  
Time with Job Service: 2 years  
Favorite Summer Activity: Being in the sun



**Shania Eagle**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: PRIDE (Parental Responsibility Initiative for Development of Employment) Case Manager; HRCC Career Readiness Instructor  
Time with Job Service: 1 year, 2 months  
Favorite Summer Activity: Fishing



**Leoncya Ngoma**

Title: Career Navigator  
Program/Role: NAEP (New American Employment Program) Case Manager  
Time with Job Service: 8 months  
Favorite Summer Activity: Picnicking



**Dan Upgren**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: Resource Room Employment Advisor, NDSP Career Readiness Instructor  
Time with Job Service: 2 months  
Favorite Summer Activity: Fishing, softball, and swimming



**Jared Mendoza**

Title: Employment Advisor  
Program/Role: Resource Room Employment Advisor  
Time with Job Service: 2 months  
Favorite Summer Activity: Lounging in his pool



## Construction & Trades Job Fair

Date: 04/23/2025

Location: Bismarck Workforce Center

Total Attendees: 80

Participating Employers: 19

This job fair focused on connecting job seekers to employers in the construction & trades industries. The fair offered a broad representation of opportunities across the sector, including residential and commercial construction, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and heavy equipment operation. Employers shared positive feedback about the quality and diversity of candidates, noting the range of skill level from entry-level to highly experienced, which they appreciated.



## New American Job Fair

Date: 05/08/2025

Location: Bismarck Career Academy

Total Attendees: 20

Participating Employers: 14

This fair was designed to help connect individuals who have recently relocated to the United States to local employment opportunities and resources. Ukrainian, French, Spanish, and Swahili interpreters were available to support attendees during the event. Employers expressed appreciation for the strong talent and diverse skill sets of the attendees.



## 2025 Job Fair Recap

The Bismarck Workforce Center was busy in the months of April, May, and June hosting a variety of job fairs. A few of the bigger fairs included the Construction & Trades Job Fair, the New American Job Fair, and the Fair Chance Job Fair. Here's a quick recap of each event:

### Fair Chance Job Fair

Date: 06/05/2025

Location: Bismarck Workforce Center

Total Attendees: 105

Participating Employers: 13

This fair was geared towards individuals who may have barriers to employment, including justice involvement, large gaps in employment, disability, homelessness, or low English skills. However, it was also open to the general public, which meant a broad spectrum of individuals attended this event. Many employers noted the meaningful conversations they had with attendees and satisfaction with the number of promising candidates they met.



Overall, the job fairs were a success in creating valuable hiring connections, promoting workforce inclusivity, and reinforcing the strength of our local talent pool. Employers shared how impressed they were with the high-quality candidates, meaningful conversations, and several on-the-spot job offers.



CENTRAL DAKOTA  
**STUDENT  
CAREER EXPO**

# COMING TO BISMARCK NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025

The Central Dakota Student Career Expo is an exciting chance for businesses to connect with high schoolers in the region.

- Position your business as an industry leader
- Connect with the future workforce
- Educate students on career paths in our state
- Keep students in North Dakota after graduation

Become an exhibitor or sponsor to build local talent, strengthen our community, and shape the future of North Dakota's workforce.

Discover more  
about the event  
or register at

[www.JobsND.com/  
CDSCExpo](http://www.JobsND.com/CDSCExpo)

or scan the  
QR code!



Space is limited-  
**REGISTER NOW**

## Important Contact Information:

Bismarck Workforce Center - 701.328.5000  
[infojsbis@nd.gov](mailto:infojsbis@nd.gov)

Unemployment Insurance Claims -  
701.328.4995

Unemployment Insurance Employer -  
701.328.2866

Employer Unemployment Tax - 701.328.2814

## Recurring Local Events:

- WIOA Orientation Weekly Tuesday 9am
- 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
- 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  
**Dakota** | Bismarck Workforce Center  
Be Legendary.™ JOB SERVICE

Respectful | Loyal | Collaborative | Purposeful  
#JobUpND

