

## In Your Adult Education Classroom and Beyond... My Indiana Career Explorer Experience



By Mary Pouch,  
State Field Trainer for ICE

I fell in love with the Indiana Career Explorer (ICE) system while working as a school counselor having experience using the tool with secondary, postsecondary and adult education students. In December of 2014, I began serving as the state field trainer, advising educators at all levels on the best use of ICE for career exploration and development.

If you are not already familiar with ICE, it offers free, lifetime access to your students! Core components of the system are: research-based career assessments, multiple ways to explore occupations, postsecondary training and education options, tools to create cover letters, resumes, a shareable e-Portfolio and numerous job search tools, including how

to find job openings. ICE is a powerful tool that is relevant during every stage of one's educational endeavors and through career transitions.

ICE is part of a multi-agency partnership between the Indiana Department of Education, the Commission for Higher Education/Learn More Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College and the Department of Workforce Development. With so much support in our state for the Indiana Career Explorer system, it's no wonder that we have seen such tremendous growth in its use. From December 2014 to December 2015, the number of users of the ICE system has grown from 359,029 to over 500,000 statewide.

A big component of the trainings is how to make group registration quick and easy, suggestions for group and individual guidance of assessment results, and the variety of ways to explore career options based on a student's interests, skills and values. My favorite tool to share this last year has been the "Personal To Do List" which helps guide students through the recommended use of the system based on their adult user type. Using this tool can make the system even more flexible and self-paced. The "Personal To Do List" is similar to a mini lesson plan

and it makes the system a snap to navigate. Best of all, it's based on national career development standards. Speaking of lesson plans, those are also available in ICE! You can use them straight from the system or adapt them to meet your classroom needs.

Other tools and resources of the ICE system I cover with training participants are: how to guide students to explore their assessment results in a way that makes sense for them, how to explore occupations using skills from previous jobs, side by side comparisons of up to three of their favorite occupations or favorite postsecondary education and training options, how to find internships and apprenticeships, learning about and searching for financial aid, extensive job interview preparation resources and so much more. Additionally, the system links to state resources like the Hoosier Hot 50, Indiana Career Connect and others. Most of my training participants were not aware of this breadth of resources and tools at their fingertips! Indiana Career Explorer can help prepare your students for their next step outside of your classroom, whether that step is employment, WorkINdiana or other postsecondary training or education. Best of

## My Indiana Career Explorer Experience (cont'd)

all, once your students make a free account, it is theirs for life and they can use it for any career or educational transition. I love giving my students tools that will last beyond my time with them and ICE is one of those tools!

I've really enjoyed meeting so many new people at the different DWD affiliates, Work One Centers, Excel Centers

and more over the past year. I am looking forward to presenting at the joint IAACE and DWD Conference in April, the E-Revolution Conference in Evansville this July and the ISCA Conference in November. If we haven't met already, I hope you will say "hello" and learn more about ICE. I'd love it if you would share your ICE experience with me and what you still

want to know about how the system can benefit your work with students.

*For information about face to face or virtual training, please email Mary Pouch, Indiana Field Trainer, at [pouchm@kuder.com](mailto:pouchm@kuder.com). For general inquiries or help using the ICE system, please contact Client Engagement at 877-999-6227, M-F, 7am-6pm (CT) or email them at [clientengagement@kuder.com](mailto:clientengagement@kuder.com).*

## Rosida's Story

By Karen McKinley and Scott Mills

In a heartfelt letter mailed to the Greensburg WorkOne staff this December, Rosida Bean wrote "I feel you should know you have wonderful people working for you...!" Ms. Bean, 60, a recent WorkINdiana Phlebotomy Technician graduate, wrote those words in praise of her WIOA Case Manager, Sharon Helms.

Rosida's path to graduation was not easy. When she began her class last February Rosida struggled with the feeling that she was inadequately prepared to go back to school, especially when the rest of her classmates were so much younger than she was. Just when Rosida was feeling at her worst, Sharon Helms came to the rescue and offered Rosida the support she needed.

With Sharon's help Rosida was able to switch to a class

with an instructor who was more understanding when it came to her needs as an older, working, student. Rosida and Sharon were also able to work with Rosida's employer to ensure that Rosida had the scheduling flexibility to attend classes. Ultimately, this experience gave Rosida a new sense of confidence that allowed her to finish the course and prepare to sit for the written exam.

Even though Rosida had another curveball thrown her way before she finished—her testing site closed early and she had to finish her certification exam in her instructor's car—she was able to pass her test and received two certifications. Now she plans to make a new beginning in Indianapolis where she can be closer to her family. With this new beginning in mind, Rosida



**Rosida Bean**  
WorkINdiana Phlebotomy  
Technician Graduate

closed out her letter to the Greensburg WorkOne by saying, "I want to thank [you]... for helping me change my life for the better."

It is words like those that make the work worthwhile for all of us.