

## For Immediate Release

November 6, 2020

Contact: Sara Worstell, Executive Director

[Sara.worstell@workonesw.org](mailto:Sara.worstell@workonesw.org)

812.430.6459

## Helping Local Businesses

Evansville, IN (November 6, 2020) According to IndianaCareerConnect.com, the official job board for the State of Indiana, there were 236 new job orders created representing 440 open positions within the past seven days. Employers are needing to fill open positions now, however, finding skilled workers for the in-demand occupations has been a struggle. Governor Holcomb's agenda addressing the lack of skills for the jobs that are here today and being created tomorrow has led to the NextLevel Jobs – Employer Training Grant program. The training grant program reimburses employers to hire, train and retain new and current employees to upskill the workforce to meet the needs of the in-demand occupations.

Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board Business Services Representatives have played a significant role in coordinating the Employer Training Grant process for local businesses. Normal grant processes take an extensive amount of time in preparing the proposal and processing the follow up reports. The Business Services Representatives have been the mediator for the State of Indiana by assisting the employers step-by-step through the process.

*"The Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce staff have been instrumental in assisting Jasper Engines & Transmissions with the Next Level Jobs program. The Business Services Representatives worked closely with JASPER since the inception of the program and recently helped us through the revised Next Level Jobs criteria. The Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce staff made the Next Level Jobs application and approval process seamless and efficient." says Jason Nord with Jasper Engines and Transmissions, Jasper IN*

*"We are a mid-sized manufacturer with a majority of training performed in house. When the Business Services Representative told me about this program, I was excited to be able to do some training outside the company for our employees. In 2019, we had three employees participate in the program and it was so easy to administer and track. Dana explained everything thoroughly and was eager to make my job easy. This year, we got all of our managers together to brainstorm on what would be the best use of this program. There are several classes that would benefit more than one department so again, we have signed up multiple people to benefit from the grant. This has been a win/win for our company and the employees." says Gayle Arvin with Enviroplas, Evansville IN*

The NextLevel Jobs – Employer Training Grant program has significantly helped offset the cost employers assume when training new or current employees. Regional employers have invoiced the State \$1,704,000 for training reimbursement funds within the last four months.

*"Working with NextLevel Jobs through the Employer Training Grant program has been a very beneficial and easily navigated program for Dewig Meats. In the meat packing industry, the push for local products has been increasing for the past few years. The COVID pandemic has intensified this movement making it imperative for our company to both cross train existing employees and hire new employees to fulfill the demand. Since there is not a meat cutting program to send our employees to, we have had to train our new employees on site by our experienced staff which slows down production. It has been very helpful in getting assistance from NextLevel Jobs to help offset the increased amount of time that has been put forward to train new employees or cross train existing employees. This is a beneficial program that has benefited our company, our employees, and the end consumer in producing safe and wholesome meat products for the tri-state area." says Darla Kiesel with Dewig Bros Packing Company, Haubstadt IN*

**For Immediate Release**

**GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA**  
**WORKFORCE**

November 6, 2020

Contact: Sara Worstell, Executive Director

[Sara.worstell@workonesw.org](mailto:Sara.worstell@workonesw.org)

812.430.6459

Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce is committed to support regional employers by providing the training grant assistance and to build relationships with the business community to identify barriers to employment opportunities; work with business and training providers to support business attraction, expansion, and retention; and utilize timely labor market analyses to identify primary business sectors and regional in-demand, high wage occupations. For more information, send inquiries to [business.services@workonesw.org](mailto:business.services@workonesw.org).

###