



Workforce Development Professionals are everywhere!



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How did you get started in workforce development?

I have always been in occupations that centered around helping others through providing a direct service or planning and directing services for program participants. So when the opportunity came up to work at a career center, I jumped. Prior to this, I was a program coordinator for a teen arts program. I have spent much of my career in youth development. I was interested in making the transition to working with

adults and that's when I found workforce development. It was a perfect way to connect my previous experience to working with adult job seekers. Within the first 30 days, I knew workforce development is where I needed to be and I've been around ever since.

What is the most exciting thing about being a Workforce Development Professional?

The thing that excites me the most is coming up with strategies to better help job seekers find work. As the ways people look for work change, it is exciting to see what's trending, what no longer works, engaging social media, and better techniques to landing a great job.

That is what makes our service relevant and gives us staying power in today's economy. We have to keep the job seekers at the forefront so they continue to see value in our service. I love coming up with ways to make sure we do that.

What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?

The thing I value most about being a NAWDP member is having the platform to connect with other workforce development professionals. Sharing ideas and strategies is very helpful in this business. NAWDP is a great way to

stay connected to our colleagues all over the country. I also find value in being able to receive information and updates on things that happen in Washington, D.C. that affect our funding and ultimately, our jobs.

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

My advice would be to stay committed to helping people find work. There are many different levels to workforce development and while one may not always be working directly with job seekers, it is still important

to remain connected to their experience. Don't be afraid to be innovative and creative. Don't be afraid to "color outside of the lines" in the way you deliver services.