

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Cumberland Workforce Development Area (CWDA) administers the WIOA program in Pulaski County. The main goal of the CWDA is to help build a skilled and talented workforce from which the employers in our area obtain and retain employees. A goal of the CWDA has been to invest more time and resources into serving the youth in our area by providing information to all and financial assistance who are eligible for WIOA services.

All career pathways that are offered at Pulaski Area Technology Center align with the sectors that the local workforce board has determined to be high demand occupations in our region. WIOA assists individuals acquire industry-recognized credentials for in-demand jobs. Through WIOA, states and local areas use career pathways to provide education and employment and training assistance to accelerate job seekers' educational and career advancement. Therefore, high school seniors are offered the opportunity to apply for post-secondary training services, which can provide tuition assistance.

Heather Stevenson is the youth career manager for Pulaski County. Throughout the school year, Mrs. Stevenson offers ongoing group and one-on-one consultation to prepare high school seniors for post-secondary education and employment opportunities.

Mrs. Stevenson assists each student with registering at FocusCareer.ky.gov, which is a tool that can be used to create an online resume, search available jobs listed with the Kentucky Career Center, and further the student's career exploration. Mrs. Stevenson seeks to provide increased awareness of the student's chosen career pathway, including:

- Labor Market Information
- Occupational Information
- Job Search Avenues
- Job Applications & Resume Assistance

Other Service Offerings Include:

- Developing an Individual Employment Plan
- Assistance Filling Out FAFSA and College Applications to enroll in post-secondary training
- Soft Skills Training—Importance of Communication, Attendance, Punctuality, E-mail/Social Networking Etiquette*
- summer employment opportunities linked to academic and occupational learning
- paid and unpaid work experiences

- Apprenticeship exploration
- leadership development opportunities
- mentoring opportunities

Pulaski County is a certified Work Ready Community. This certification is a measure of a county's workforce quality. It is an assurance to business and industry that the community is committed to providing the highly-skilled workforce required in today's competitive global economy. As part of the Work Ready Community initiative, WIOA invests in TOMORROW's workforce through the in-school youth program's Mini One-Stop. The Mini One-Stop brings employment services to the Area Technology Center.