Partnering to Serve
Smithfield & ROE 33
Workplace Skills Enhancement ESL

Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Normal Illinois
April 2022

Regional Office of Education #33

Kang Hee Hong
Adult Ed Director
khong@roe33.net
309-715-7308

Autmn Carson
ESL Instructor
afletcher@roe33.net
ROE #33 Location of Services:
- Carthage
- Monmouth
- Galesburg
ROE #33 Adult Education

Over 200 adult students are served yearly.

217 students this FY23

110 English as a Second Language students
107 High School Equivalency students
Smithfield Foods Monmouth

- 1,775 employees
- 40% English as a Second Language speakers
- French-speaking countries of Africa, Myanmar, China, Central American countries
- Workplace literacy needs: hygiene, machine operation rules, safety procedures, and communication protocols
WSE Class Curriculum

General Workplace Readiness
- Workbook: At Work in the U.S.
- Burlington English: Workplace readiness
- Getting a job
- Keeping a job
- Resume building

Community Resources
- Civics
  - Laws of the land
  - Loans

Personal goals and planning
- Bigger picture in life and career
Workplace based English
  ● reading, speaking, grammar, listening, writing

Smithfield work related
  ● Employee handbook
    ■ Fire Safety drills
    ■ Tornado
    ■ Policies and procedures
    ■ Time Off request
    ■ Filling out forms
    ■ Paystub
    ■ PPE, safety equipment
    ■ Sexual harassment, discrimination
Workplace Skills Enhancement ESL Class since FY21

Class time: 10am - 12pm (second shift employees)
Monday - Thursday

Monday and Tuesday in person
Wednesday and Thursday Zoom
Support Service - Adult ED

- **Bridge classes**
  - Essential Skills Academy
  - Healthcare
  - Manufacturing
  - Hospitality
  - Business
  - Natural Resources

- **Transition service**
  - Wrap around personalized assistance
  - College information
  - Career Exploration
Partnership Efforts

- **Monthly Meetings**
  - First Mondays at 10am
- **Marketing**
  - Info table
  - Flyers, slideshow on teleprompters throughout plant
- **Incentives**
  - Cafeteria Lunch Vouchers
  - $50 for point gains in English standardized test
  - $100 for level gains in English standardized test
  - Certificate
  - Smithfield Jacket
- **Class Space**
  - Conference Room
Let’s hear from Smithfield!

Smithfield WSE Managers’ Interview Video

https://youtu.be/pfKrQaWesDc
“I want to thank Smithfield HR and the ROE for this opportunity. Before I had difficulty speaking English, but right now I can understand it and speak it.” - Heritier Kipoyi

“I know my English is better and I am using it everyday.” - Ida Mukongo

“I chose to take this English class so I can study at a University. This English class is important to me because at first, I was not able to understand what I was hearing. Now, I can understand English in conversations around me. I also use my English in the public. For example, when I go to the bank, I use my English. I also use my English at the store.” - Evodie Mbondji
Challenges

• Grant expectation 50/50 match
• Lack of Incentives
• Building relationships with staff involved in operations of the project at Smithfield (room schedule, incentive approving person)
• Class location, internet
• Long Work hours, shifts
• Participation moral
• COVID
Helpful Tips

- Options & Details are kind
  - What do you think?
  - How can we do this?

- Paint the picture for employer
  - Easier for employer to jump in.
  - Don’t start from blank!
End of Year Celebration
Kang Hee Hong
Director of Adult Education
khong@roe33.net
309-715-7308

Autmn Carson
WSE ESL Instructor
afletcher@roe33.net