



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2024

Contact: Chris Parks, Communications Coordinator

Phone: 712-243-4196 x228

Email: chris.parks@swipco.org

SWIPCO Adds Five New Members to the Team

Amy Jones joins SWIPCO as Payroll & Benefits Specialist

Atlantic, IA- Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is pleased to announce the addition of Amy Jones to the team as a Payroll & Benefits Specialist. Jones has an extended background in accounting and human resources that will help her flourish in this new role.

Amy was raised and went to school in Shenandoah. She spent time with Hy-Vee in Shenandoah in both Human Resources and Accounting Coordinator roles. She also gained experience in city government with both the Shenandoah Police Department and the City of Shenandoah, working in accounts payable with the city.

Amy cited helping others as her favorite aspect of her previous positions, "I want to be approachable and willing to help the staff. With the benefits aspect of this new position, I enjoy being able to help people understand what is available to them and guide them through the process," Jones said.

Jones even cited her first job as a waitress as some of her most valuable work experience: getting to know people, dealing with different personalities, and customer service. She saw the opening for the SWIPCO position on Facebook and thought her experience with accounting and the city might match up well. "I have already started to see some similarities with my previous work. I feel very lucky to get this opportunity. I look forward to working with everyone at SWIPCO," Jones said.

Jones currently resides in Red Oak and has three adult children and four grandchildren. She enjoys getting to spend time with them and her grand-dog.

SWIPCO is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.



SWIPCO Welcomes Brandie McFarland as Human Resource Specialist

ATLANTIC, IOWA -- Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) welcomes Brandie McFarland as a Human Resource Specialist. She will work alongside Human Resource Coordinator Daurine Petersen to assist with many HR duties including on-boarding new employees, driver training, and compliance.

Brandie brings a wide range of administrative experience with her including a long tenure at Glenwood Resource Center. Brandie feels this role is a great fit for her, "I love working with people and I've always been involved with administrative duties, so I feel very comfortable in the role."

She was born and raised in Stanton and still resides on the family acreage near there. She spends much of her time outside of work at her daughter's activities or coaching, as she is the head softball coach at Stanton. When not at the ballfield or in a gym she enjoys keeping up with maintenance of her property.

SWIPCO and SWITA have nearly 100 employees between office staff and drivers, so Brandie will help all of them with any current needs and help bring new employees on board.



SWIPCO Welcomes Holly Jackson to Planning Department

ATLANTIC, IOWA -- Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) welcomes Holly Jackson as a Community Development Specialist, Planner. She will work with communities throughout the SWIPCO region on zoning and coding ordinances.

Jackson comes to SWIPCO with a wealth of experience in public service. She was the Mills County Zoning Administrator for nearly a decade and spent nearly six years on the Glenwood City Council. Jackson grew up in the Glenwood area, where her mother served as the Mills County Auditor for 23 years.

Jackson said it was tough to leave her previous roles but feels good about the change, "I really enjoyed my time with the county and city council. I had a lot of great relationships and many of those people are close friends. I hope they continue to succeed. I just felt like it was time for a change."

Familiarity from working with SWIPCO on projects connected her to the new position. "It will be nice to be able to continue to work with Glenwood and Mills County, but I'm also excited to get a chance to work with some other communities in the region. They all have different needs," said Jackson.

Holly resides near Glenwood with her husband Jonathan and four children Lecey, Livia, Maxton, and Maverick. She enjoys following their activities. She also enjoys volunteering and getting involved such as being a 4-H leader. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, canning, cooking, baking, and caring for their various pets.



SWITA Welcomes Gina Gentile as Transit Scheduler

ATLANTIC, IOWA -- Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) welcomes Gina Gentile as a Transit Scheduler. Julie will join the team that connects area residents to the transportation they need.

Gina resides in the Oakland area with her family. She comes to SWITA from working a number of years for the Iowa National Guard as a Family Assistance Center Coordinator.

SWITA serves eight counties in Southwest Iowa with a fleet of 100 vehicles. Transportation provided includes work routes, student transportation, day habilitation routes for disabled individuals, medical transport, and a range of other services.

Gina enjoys traveling to warm locations when she can.



SWITA Welcomes Adam Kisner as Maintenance Assistant

ATLANTIC, IOWA -- Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) welcomes Adam Kisner as Maintenance Assistant. Adam will help to keep the SWITA fleet of vehicles clean and maintained along with ensuring offices and facilities are kept in top shape. He will also run routes as a driver and help transport vehicles.

SWITA serves eight counties in Southwest Iowa with a fleet of 100 vehicles. Transportation provided includes work routes, student transportation, day habilitation routes for disabled individuals, medical transport, and a range of other services.

Kisner has a strong background in transit, working for the Sacramento (CA) Regional Transit District. During his time there he helped maintain trains, train stations, buses, bus stations, and some time as an operator.

“I’ve worked in this field and when looking for a job when we moved here my wife and I saw SWITA vehicles and wrote down the name to put in a call. I was initially just going to be a driver but once they saw my background, I was offered this position. It has been great so far.”

Kisner is originally from Cleveland and then spent time in California before moving here to be closer to his in-laws. He said he really is enjoying the pace of life here.

In his free time, he is interested in tennis, working out, aviation, and board games.