



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 1: ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER 2005

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Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Critical Skill Shortages Initiative

CSSI Healthcare

As the fall semester begins, LPN and ADN students are being informed about the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI). Prior to the semester, flyers were sent to the community colleges to distribute to the nursing students who are starting in the fall nursing programs. The flyers informed students about services available to them through grant opportunities and also provided them with the contact information needed to apply.

Cary Minnis, the CSSI Healthcare Liaison, is following up the letter with visits to the community colleges in the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR). The objective of the visits is to make every nursing student in the region aware of the opportunities available to them and inform them where to apply for the assistance.

Cary is encouraging students to apply for the mentoring program as well as informing them about other services that are available to them through WIA. The extra effort placed on recruiting nursing students has already led to more nursing students visiting the WIA offices in the region.

Several students have already been enrolled into the mentoring program and have been referred to their mentor. The number of phone calls inquiring about the program is increasing daily. This early success and

heightened interest is very encouraging and, with the continued support of the Directors of Nursing, Nursing Instructors, and the WIA providers in the SEDR, the mentor program should be very successful this semester.

Verizon Grant

Man-Tra-Con Corporation was recently notified they have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$29,455.60 from the Verizon Foundation. A proposal was submitted to the foundation in March of this year requesting funds to equip and establish a state-of-the-art training room.

The funds provided by the Verizon Foundation will be used to purchase the following for the training room: a dedicated computer workstation for individuals with disabilities; an interactive, electronic whiteboard; a projection screen and projector; computers; skills tutoring software; and cabling.

The training room will be available for use by employers, job seekers, adults, and youth pursuing job skills training enhancement, educational assistance, access to online job search and other career training. The training room will also be used for teaching weekly GED classes, and hosting a free tax counseling project. The Tax Counseling Project is geared towards

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I anticipate September will be a busy month. Please watch the Calendar of Events section for meetings and conferences. We have an excellent program planned for the Local Awards Banquet. I highly recommend your attendance. This is a rare opportunity to actually see how our efforts have made a dramatic impact on the lives of others.

The Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference will be filled with workshops, special presenters and guest speakers. It will take place at John A. Logan College on September 29th. The conference has always been informative and offers opportunities for networking with both local and state economic development specialists. For more information contact Bob Hopkins at (618) 998-0970 ext. 222.

The annual Legislative Reception hosted by the Illinois Workforce Investment Board Chairs and the Illinois Workforce Partnership is our opportunity to discuss the direction of workforce development in Illinois with our Senators and Representatives. It is also our chance to highlight the achievements of Workforce Investment Boards as well as their continued success.

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COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, August 30th. They approved the renewal of the Youth Contracts and the SIWIB meeting schedule for program year 2005.

Board Development Committee

Chairman Maxwell would like to encourage attendance at the Illinois Workforce Development Conference October 24th – 26th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. There will be numerous workshops, informative presenters and the Illinois Workforce Awards Banquet.

Chairman Armstrong urges that the Legislative Reception is an important event and would not be possible without the financial support from Workforce Board members. The goal is to receive at least \$250.00 per Workforce Investment Area. Silver level sponsors (\$100-\$199) receive 2 guest passes to the reception, their company name on the invitations and name tags identifying company sponsorship level. Gold sponsors (\$200-\$499) receive silver level premiums plus special recognition at the reception. Platinum sponsors (\$500 and up) receive gold level premiums plus two additional guest passes and their company name on tabletop displays. If you wish to become a sponsor, please contact Executive Director Kathy Lively or Bob Hopkins.

Business and Economic Development Committee

The Business & Economic Development Committee is charged with the commitment to become a more business driven system. With that being said, Sandra Hastings, a consultant from Greg Newton & Associates, helped to create a plan to create a business service team. This team is comprised of One-Stop partners that primarily assist businesses with needed services. These partners have chosen to join forces in order to incorporate a complete

package under the One-Stop umbrella. The Business & Economic Development committee will provide oversight to this new plan. Steve Mitchell, Business Service Coordinator for the One-Stop Team, will provide progress reports and updates to the committee members.

Marketing Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. at the Marion One-Stop Center.

One-Stop Committee

Employer Forum

The Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center will be hosting an employer forum on Wednesday, October 12th. The forum will include a presentation on providing reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities presented by Don Janousek a professor at Rend Lake College. Also included will be a tour and overview of One-Stop services as well as a panel discussion of local employers who work with persons with disabilities.

Disability Mentoring Day

The Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center will host its second annual Disability Mentoring Day on October 19, 2005. Partnering agencies, including Man-Tra-Con Corp, Department of Rehabilitation Services and Opportunities for Access Center for Independent Living sponsor the event. Mentoring day is a national event giving students with disabilities the opportunity to job shadow in their area of interest.

Youth Council

Even though the Youth Council did not meet in August, continuous efforts have been made to work on a procedure used to locate youth willing to serve on the Council. Beginning in September, monthly meetings will be rotated at contractors' sites. WIA students at each facility will

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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economically disadvantaged individuals and will be held each year during the months of January through April. These facilities will also benefit other agencies and businesses in the area that desire a fully equipped, convenient location for holding workshops and pre-employment assessments. Additionally, short-term classes in basic computer use, Microsoft Office application packages, resume preparation, and interviewing skills will be taught in the dedicated, internet-ready training room.

Lifelong Learning Sub-committee, Business Services Taskforce

Employers throughout our five-county region have repeatedly stressed the difficulties they face in finding, hiring and retaining highly-skilled, well-trained employees. They have noted a pressing need to foster learning experiences for their employees that will prepare them to deal with all the rapid changes in technology, workplace practices, and techniques.

The Lifelong Learning Subcommittee of the SIWIB Business Services Taskforce, chaired by Elaine Melby, is seeking to devise solutions that will encourage workers to engage in lifelong learning activities that will bring them to a high level of skill and then keep them at the forefront of knowledge and practice in their fields. Initiatives such as the "Work Certified" program and other lifelong learning activities currently under consideration by the subcommittee are geared toward enabling our region's employers to confidently hire Southern Illinoisans, secure in the knowledge that they are among the most well trained, highly skilled and competitive workers in the world.

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Spotlight On...

JANICE MCCONNAUGHY, BOARD MEMBER

Born and raised in Aurora Illinois, the 1977 graduate of SIU now resides in Carterville, Illinois. This wife, and mother of four, has devoted an impressive twenty-three years to human resources in the manufacturing field. Janice holds the position of Human Resource Generalist at Maytag Herrin Laundry Products, where her current responsibilities include training and development. With her involvement and vast expertise in the field of human resources it is only fitting that she becomes the new business representative for the SIWIB. Mrs. McConnaughy enjoys the opportunity of working with a vast diversity of people.



Janice McConnaughy

Janice's other involvements include the Herrin Chamber of Commerce, the Herrin Rotary Club, and the Southern Illinois Personnel Management Association. At the same time she is an active participant in the Williamson County Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign. The Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign was originally spawned by the Community Audit commissioned by the SIWIB. Janice has personally and professionally organized co-workers and family members to clean up a total of 2.7 miles of roadway in Herrin and Carterville throughout the year. Let us take the opportunity to welcome her to the board, as we expect her strong efforts and dedication will continue as she works with us. ■

COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Youth Council (Continued from page 2)

conduct tours, explain their program to the council and attend the meeting. In January all contractors will recommend participating youth for Youth Council membership.

Plans are also in progress to bring WIA youth from all contractors together for a "Touch of Nature" team-building activity in September.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 4:00 p.m. at Carbondale Community High School Rebound, located at 205 N. Oakland in Carbondale. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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INSIDE:

- **Verizon Grant Funds Training Room Upgrades**
- **Lifelong Learning Committee Helps Maintain a Skilled S.I. Workforce**
- **Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference**

Additional information about SIWIB Initiatives and board members can be found on our web site at www.siwib.org.

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign

The campaign for Beautify Southern Illinois is well underway. This taskforce, lead by Dr. Glenn Poshard, puts forth the mission statement of vowing "To make southern Illinois the cleanest part of the state... and keep it that way!"

- **Sign Up to Clean Up** — September 10, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Southern Illinoisans can adopt an area in their community to keep litter free. October 22, 2005 — first quarterly clean-up for adopted areas.
- **Teachers Environmental Education Workshop** — September 21, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This will help maintain environmental sustainability by educating and reaching an indefinite number people.

For more information on these events, please call (618) 453-7183 or email jdubois@cehs.siu.edu. ■

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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The Legislative Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Sangamon Club in Springfield.

I hope you enjoyed your first edition of SIWIB NEWS and I eagerly await your comments.

An electronic copy of the newsletter will be made available at www.siwib.org. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

Beautify Southern Illinois:
Sign Up to Clean Up,
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

SIWIB Annual Awards Banquet
in the Tarvin-Crisp room at John
A. Logan College, Carterville.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

Teachers Environmental
Educational Workshops,
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Southern Illinois Economic
Development Conference at
John A. Logan College