



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 1: ISSUE 3: OCTOBER 2005

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

COMMUNITY AUDIT: *Business Services Taskforce Work Readiness & Work Ethics Sub-Committee*

As a result of the Community Audit, the Business Services Taskforce has introduced the Work Readiness & Work Ethics Sub-Committee. This sub-committee's primary goal is to address the challenge of improving the work ethic and work-readiness of the entire southern Illinois workforce, and particularly of those just entering it. Specifically, the following skills are to be addressed: basic communication, critical thinking, self-management, teamwork, technical capabilities and time management.

The committee is comprised of leaders in business, healthcare and economic development. They are expecting the Work Certified program to be a significant tool to help them meet their goals. Specifically, the committee intends to assist in marketing the concept to professional associations and manufacturers; investigate implementing the Work Certified program in the VA Hospital in Marion; and create a "Work Ethics Contract," for the benefit of employers' incumbent workers.

The Sub-Committee, co-chaired by Bill Nielsen, of Flanders Electric in Marion, and John Henderson, with the VA Hospital in Marion, has another meeting scheduled in October to finalize their plan of action.

CSSI Healthcare

During the last few months WIA providers in the 19-county Southern Economic Development Region have met with nursing students interested in the mentoring program to determine their WIA eligibility for participation in the program. Seventeen nursing students have been certified to be eligible and are participating in the mentoring program. These students are benefiting from weekly sessions with their mentor and frequent phone calls to answer any additional questions they may have during the week.

Due to the response from John A. Logan College students, a second mentor has been hired. The new mentor will be responsible for LPN students and the original mentor will serve ADN students. This separation has made it easier for the mentors to schedule study time with similar students.

The current regional marketing project recently published another editorial in the September issue of the Southern Business Journal and highlights Frontier Community College, Wabash Valley College, and two

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I hope all of you have made your reservations to attend at the Illinois Workforce Development Conference this month. The date for the conference is October 24th -26th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The Legislative Reception is on Wednesday, October 26th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. For more information please contact Executive Director Kathy Lively or Board Secretary Bob Hopkins.

To mark National Disability Employment Awareness Month the Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center will host an employment and disability forum. It will take place at the Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The goal of the forum is to make local employers aware of the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. It will include presentations by Rend Lake College Professor Don Janousek on making reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities. One-Stop staff will give an overview of services and a tour of the One-Stop Business and Employment Center.

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COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development

The next meeting for the SIWIB will be on December 15th in the Great Room located at Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center in the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park in Whittington, Illinois. The committee will continue their work on finalizing an agenda and other details for the meeting. Chairman Maxwell invites everyone to attend the Employment and Disabilities Forum on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at the One-Stop Business and Employment Center in Mt. Vernon from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Business & Economic Development

At the August 18th meeting, committee members heard a presentation from Rick Pigg, funding manager for the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA). Mr. Pigg delivered a summary of the many funding options available to private business and industry, agricultural, educational, environmental and healthcare entities. For more information about the IFA visit their website at www.il-fa.com.

One-Stop

Annual SIWIB Awards Banquet — Excellence in Action

The Awards Banquet of September 20th turned out to be a great success. Phil Minnis, dean of Workforce Development and Community Education at John A. Logan College, delivered a welcome on behalf of Dr. Robert Mees, president of John A. Logan College. A welcome message from Pat Drake, chair of the One-Stop Committee followed. Master of Ceremonies, Crystal Lukens, announced winners of individual and group achievement awards. Receiving awards were:

Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award

- Shawna Bloodworth
- Jennifer Harris

- Martha Welch

Innovative Solutions Award

- Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign
- Glenn Poshard, CEO, Poshard Foundation
 - Kathy Lively, Executive Director, Man-Tra-Con Corporation
 - Paul Restivo, Director, Center for Environmental Health & Safety, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Staff Collaboration Award

- Committee for "CONNECTING THE DOTS" Workshop
- Scott Cohoon, Man-Tra-Con Corporation
 - Mike Egbert, Opportunities for Access, Center for Independent Living
 - Terri Finn, Opportunities for Access, Center for Independent Living
 - Christy Herzing, Man-Tra-Con Corporation
 - Tiana Sanders, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Human Services

Business Leadership Award

MARSHALL BROWNING HOSPITAL

- Victoria Derby, Environmental Services Team Leader
- Sarah Dickey, Human Resource Assistant
- Jami Mathis, Admittance Department Supervisor
- Tracy Schubert, Health Information and Records Supervisor
- Lyle VanZandt, Director of Support Services

Youth Council

The September 14th meeting of the Youth Council was held at Carbondale Community High School Rebound in Carbondale. Members received a tour of the site conducted by WIA participants attending the meeting. The meeting focused on transportation issues for the September 29 Youth Event that will bring participants from all four youth programs together for team building sessions at Touch of Nature.

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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mentors. The October issue highlights nursing as an excellent career choice.

Manufacturing Grant

Although the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR) is anxiously awaiting an official announcement regarding the manufacturing grant proposal submitted in November 2004, preliminary work toward implementation of this important project has been on-going. Staff from LWA 25 and LWA 26 met with representatives from all six SEDR community colleges recently to discuss delivery of the Work Certified program in the region. The colleges have made a commitment to offer the program on their campuses and to provide instructors who will become certified to teach the 90-hour foundation skills training program. Additionally, staff from both workforce areas have discussed offering the individual modules which comprise the entire program as workshops through the One-Stop Centers located in the region.

The Work Certified program addresses skills training in math, reading, writing, computer usage, basic business understanding, and general manufacturing processes. Lectures, exercises, role-playing, and classroom interaction are utilized throughout the program to teach not only these basic skills, but to educate participants on the importance of teamwork, reliability, and dependability in the workplace.

For more information on the manufacturing grant or the Work Certified program, please contact Lucinda Pearce at 618/998-0970, Ext. 226, or lucindapearce@mantracon.org.

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Spotlight On...

CRYSTAL LUKENS, BOARD MEMBER

Welcoming Back Familiar Faces

Crystal Lukens is no stranger to the SIWIB. Crystal has replaced Dr. Jack Hill as a partner representative on the Board. She has previously served on the board from January of 2000 through June of 2003. Since that time she has held the position of Vice Chair of the Marketing Committee while also serving on the Board Development Committee. She currently holds the position of Vice President of Easter Seals in West Kentucky/Southern Illinois for the Senior Community Service Employment Program. This program is better known as, "SCSEP". Funded through Title V of the Older American Act, SCSEP is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Mrs. Lukens has 11 years of experience operating the SCSEP and she has won national and state awards for her performance in placement, innovation and overall program operations. Crystal's past accomplishments also include Professional of the Year for the Illinois Employment and Training Association, while she served as their President. She also has 15 years experience prior to SCSEP developing training programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Outside of the SIWIB this wife of 22 years, and now mother of 5, has an event planning and wedding décor business. Lukens also does motivational speaking and customer service training both for her agency as well as for other programs and organizations. We welcome her back with open arms as she puts her multi-tasking abilities to work for the board once again.



Crystal Lukens

The SIWIB News wishes to congratulate her on the new addition to her family, Ms. Maezy Jae Lukens. She arrived at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, and weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. ■

COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Youth Council (Continued from page 2)

Another youth event is being planned for spring. The council was pleased to receive thoughts from Rebound participants regarding what type of activities would be best received by youth. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B
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INSIDE:

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- **Work Certified Program**

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

On September 10th, the Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign held its "Sign Up to Clean Up" event. At this event, organizations took the initiative to make a difference in their communities by signing up to adopt a mile of road to clean and maintain throughout the year. Four region-wide clean up days each year will be scheduled. The first official clean up day will be on Saturday, October 22. ■

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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Then, to cap off the morning, there will be a roundtable discussion of local employers, who will share their experiences working with employees with disabilities.

The forum was designed by the staff of the Department of Human Services: Division of Rehabilitation Services, Man-Tra-Con Corporation, and Opportunities for Access Center for Independent Living.

Employers attending are encouraged to have their questions ready for the presenters. Space is limited so please RSVP to Christy Herzing at 618-241-6900 ext. 6731 (Voice) or 618-242-7328 (TTY) by October 7, 2005. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 12, 2005

Employer Driven
Sub-Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m. at the Marion
One-Stop Center

OCTOBER 12, 2005

Employment
and Disability Forum
9:00 a.m. at Mt. Vernon One-Stop

OCTOBER 22, 2005

Beautify Southern Illinois
first official clean-up day

OCTOBER 24-26, 2005

Workforce Development
Conference, at the
Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Springfield

OCTOBER 26, 2005

Legislative Reception
5:00 p.m. at the Sangamo Club
Springfield, Illinois