



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 1: ISSUE 5: DECEMBER 2005

SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE

William Armstrong, Chair
e-mail: armstrong@mvn.net

John Rendleman, 1st Vice Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Mary Roe, 2nd Vice Chair
e-mail: roe@onecliq.net

John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair
e-mail: johnr@onecliq.net

Rodney Cabaness, 4th Vice Chair
e-mail: cabaness@aol.com

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Milton Maxwell, Chair
e-mail: info@siwib.org

Kathy Lively, Vice Chair
e-mail: kathy@lively@mantracon.org

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Rendleman, Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Richard Morris, Vice Chair
rmorris@ides.state.il.us

MARKETING

James McPhail, Chair
e-mail: jimmac@mychoice.net

Crystal Lukens, Vice Chair
e-mail: irnsnfir@midwest.net

ONE-STOP

Patricia Drake, Chair
e-mail: pdrake@ides.state.il.us

Alan Summers, Vice Chair
e-mail: dhsz500@dhs.state.il.us

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tyler Young, Chair
e-mail: tyjr@midwest.net

June Hickey, Vice Chair
e-mail:
jhickey@cchs165.jacksn.k12.il.us

Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

CSSI: Healthcare

West Frankfort high school students can be seen entering the VF Factory Outlet Mall in West Frankfort each morning when one would expect them to be entering the halls of Frankfort Community High School. Are they shopping rather than going to school? No, these high school students are attending a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class in the One-Stop Business and Employment Center/Man-Tra-Con office which is located in the VF Factory Outlet Mall. Fourteen Frankfort Community High School students are presently working in a CNA program created through a unique collaboration between Frankfort Community School District 168, Man-Tra-Con Corporation, John A. Logan College, and the Tech Prep Consortia.

As part of the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI), K-12 education, workforce development, post-secondary education, tech prep, and private sector partners met for 8 months in focus groups to discuss the root causes and possible solutions for the severe nursing shortage in the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR). During hundreds of hours of collective work, many solutions were suggested and implemented.

As a by-product of the CSSI work, strong relationships were forged. Betty Musgrave, Director of the Tech Prep Consortia serving Hamilton, Jefferson, Franklin counties, Wayne City and Pinckneyville High Schools, works closely with the school district and participates on the CSSI Steering Committee. Mary Ellen Abel, Associate Dean of Allied Health

at John A. Logan College actively participated in the Healthcare focus groups and was instrumental in assisting with the mentoring program implementation. Kathy Lively, Executive Director of Man-Tra-Con Corporation, worked as part of the team facilitating the CSSI grant in the SEDR.

Many discussions over the months centered on the need to foster interest and awareness of health care careers in area high school youth. The need to increase interest was a challenge given the decrease in available funds for Health Occupation Programs in area high schools. George Hopkins, Superintendent of Frankfort Community School District 168, expressed a need for a certified nursing assistant (CNA) training program but had no facility or funds for an instructor. Through the collaboration of the community college, workforce development program, private sector and the K-12 system, a creative solution evolved. Man-Tra-Con Corporation was willing to create training space by dismantling an existing computer lab, putting in a sink for use by the nursing students and purchasing supplies utilizing Workforce Investment Act and corporate funds. John A. Logan College agreed to pay for the instructor, purchase classroom supplies, and grant dual credit to the students. In addition, the private sector contributed to the classroom needs. Hospital beds were donated by Southern Illinois Healthcare.

High school students attend classes at the One-Stop Business and Employment Center four days per week with Thursdays spent off site completing clinicals. The

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SIWIB News is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published monthly by Man-Tra-Con Corporation under a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant provided by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This publication seeks to promote workforce development efforts in Local Workforce Area 25. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For those who do not use traditional print this information is available electronically. For specific access information please contact (Voice) 618-241-6731, (TTY) 618-242-7328 or accessinfo@mantracon.org. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Help Our People with Emergencies (H.O.P.E.) fundraiser with the Great Boars of Fire. The fundraiser was a huge success. An additional \$968 was raised to finance this project.

Our December meeting will be in the Great Room at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center in the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park in Whittington Illinois. There will be a cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be provided starting at 6:30 p.m. The Board will convene their meeting at 7:30 p.m. I hope you and your guest will plan to attend on Thursday, December 15th.

The National Association of Workforce Boards will hold their Annual Forum in Washington D.C., February 25 through 28, 2006. Past meeting attendance and participation will be taken into consideration for those wishing to attend.

In accordance with the SIWIB Attendance Policy, "The Board Development Committee shall review member's attendance at meetings and overall participation on the Board as a pre-requisite for committee approval to attend

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

One-Stop

The One-Stop Committee met on November 22, 2005, at Alongi's restaurant in DuQuoin. The committee members present enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation by Cindy Webb on the WIN curriculum and Skills Tutor software packages. Both packages are available in each One-Stop and satellite office for customer use. Meeting members also participated in a discussion concerning the committees recommendation for renewal of G*Stars subscription for 2006. Discussions included an overview of the referral process and how the tracking system benefits partners and customers. Members present expressed their appreciation for the reports provided through the tracking

system. The next meeting date will be January 17, 2006, 8:00 a.m. at the Marion One Stop. All committee members will be notified by e-mail.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on November 9, 2005, at Rend Lake College. Students from Rend Lake College's WIA youth program were in attendance. The Council approved a budget modification request from John A Logan College shifting WIA money from salaries and fringes to supportive services and incentives for the youth. The remainder of the meeting focused on the Spring Event to be held April 25. The WIA students contributed ideas for activities they thought participants would enjoy. ■

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instructor, Dee Harp, has been surprised, "it's been very exciting and rewarding to see young people show such an interest in the nursing field and also express their desire to work in southern Illinois."

Student response to this initiative has been very positive. Megan Julian comments, "I really like the class and am learning every day, especially in the clinicals. This class will help me begin the career path to RN someday." Joseph Smith echoed Megan's comments: "This class is great because it will allow me to work in the field while pursuing my ultimate goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant in the southern Illinois area." Olivia Ledbetter encourages students to think about enrolling in the class next year because "it is such a great practical experience so that you know if the healthcare career you think you want will be right for you."

Future plans include starting an adult

CNA class in January meeting more hours per day in order to complete the training more quickly. At the conclusion of the CNA class, adult students will have the opportunity to take additional classes to become Certified Medical Assistants. Certified Medical Assistants are in demand for clinics, and physicians' offices throughout the area. Hopes are to encourage other high schools in the immediate area to also participate in the CNA class beginning next fall.

The Critical Skill Shortages Initiative, as part of Governor Blagojevich's Opportunity Returns program, continues to have a strong impact in the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR). Increased training accounts and mentoring programs for nursing students are the most obvious results, but there are other less tangible but significant results occurring throughout the SEDR. As a region, we are committed to easing the critical shortage of nurses in the SEDR. The unique CNA classroom training program is not the only successful collaboration occurring. Future issues will highlight other unique solutions to the healthcare

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shortage in the Southern Economic Development Region. Any partners involved in new initiatives are encouraged to contact Cary Minnis at 618.998.0970, ext. 211, or e-mail caryminnis@mantracon.org.

CSSI: Manufacturing Grant

The SEDR's first Work Certified class for job seekers was launched on November 14, 2005, at John A. Logan College. Held in the Workforce Development Building at the college, eight dislocated workers are participating in the three-week long work readiness program. Students in the program have studied topics ranging from reading comprehension and business writing to customer service skill building and job skills that ensure success in the workplace. In addition to the Work Certified program, the students participated in a two-day OSHA Safety Certification training offered by the college and received OSHA certification. The Work Certified class will wrap-up on December 9 and successful participants will sit for the 75-question certification exam on December 12 at the Marion One-Stop Center. Each examinee who achieves a score of at least 80% will receive the Work Certified credential.

A second Work Certified class is scheduled to begin in January 2006 at Rend Lake College. The college will also offer the OSHA Safety Certification class as part of the short-term training package available for job seekers under CSSI. Additional classes will be scheduled in 2006 at all community colleges located throughout the SEDR. For additional information regarding the Work Certified program, please contact Lucinda Pearce at 618-998-0970, Ext. 226, or lucindapearce@mantracon.org.

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Spotlight On...

RODNEY CABANESS, VICE CHAIR

Mr. Rodney Cabaness is Vice President of Operations for the Weeks Chrysler Chevrolet dealerships in Benton and West Frankfort. He is a member of both the Benton and the West Frankfort Chambers of Commerce. He is also a member of both the Illinois as well as the National Auto Dealers Associations. Under his supervision both dealerships are recipients of the coveted Mark of Excellence Award for Sales Volume and Customer Satisfaction.



Rodney Cabaness

This native of West Frankfort was appointed to the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board in January 2000. He is the immediate Past Chairman of the Board, having served as Chairman from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. He currently serves as Fourth Vice Chairman of the Board and a member of the Business and Economic Development Committee. He has served in a number of various positions and on numerous committees.

Rodney worked his way through school as a supervisor with the United Parcel Service. He earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1992.

Karen, his wife of 6 years, is a school teacher at the Christopher Elementary School. Rodney and Karen are the proud parents of two energetic sons, Bryce and Peyton. ■

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Rapid Response

Jamie Galli and Reba Utley have been working with employees laid off from Crown Line Boats, West Frankfort; K Mart, Carbondale; Big John's, West Frankfort; and Joy Manufacturing, Mt. Vernon. The funding source for these customer services is a combination of Dislocated Worker (1D) funds and a special 1S grant. Due to the fact that the jobs lost at the General Henry/ Archway plant closure are going out of the country, those workers are eligible

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**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B
Marion, IL 62959

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

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for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) dollars and services. The TAA program has very specific deadlines and processes that are different than regular WIA processes. Each TAA customer is very labor intensive.

For the over 300 dislocated workers in WIA 25, both beginning and intermediate computer classes are presently being offered in DuQuoin, Pinckneyville, and Mt. Vernon contracted through John A. Logan and Rend Lake Colleges. In addition, JALC is redesigning three of their one year programs into semester length programs meeting 6 hours per day. Those programs include: Heating and Air Conditioning Technician, Programmable Logic Controller Technician, and Information Technology Technician. ■

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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conferences at the Board's expense." Those wishing to attend should contact Bob Hopkins by phone at (618) 998-0970, ext. 222, or by email at bobhopkins@mantracon.org.

Lastly, I do want to wish each and every one of you a very special SEASON'S GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR! THANK YOU for all the work you do on behalf of the SIWIB. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 15, 2005

SIWIB Meeting
Rend Lake Resort
in Whittington

JANUARY 4, 2006

CLEO meeting

FEBRUARY 25-28, 2006

NAWB Forum
Washington, DC

*Happy Holidays
and a Healthy
New Year to all!*