



# SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 2: ISSUE 6: SEPTEMBER 2006

## SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Mary Roe, 2nd Vice Chair**  
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**John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair**  
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**Rodney Cabaness, 4th Vice Chair**  
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**Milton Maxwell, Chair**  
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**Angela Young, Vice Chair**  
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### YOUTH COUNCIL

**Tyler Young, Chair**  
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**June Hickey, Vice Chair**  
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[www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org)

## Southern Illinois Community Foundation's (SICF) CommunityWorks Initiative

By Maggie Flanagan,  
*President, Southern Illinois Community Foundation*

The Southern Illinois Community Foundation's (SICF) CommunityWorks Initiative Leadership Team (CWILT) has been meeting in an ongoing series of round tables. The CommunityWorks Initiative is a statewide initiative implemented by the Grand Victoria Foundation (GVF) of Chicago. The Grand Victoria Foundation has engaged seventeen community foundations throughout the state of Illinois to convene community leaders with a mission of researching, deliberating and creating a grant making program revolving around the three issue areas of Workforce Development, Early Care and Education, and Land Use and Protection. In tandem, the Southern Illinois Community Foundation is to coordinate a fund raising effort to create a one-half million dollar Field of Interest Fund: The CommunityWorks Endowment. In an effort to "jump start" this endowment building, the Grand Victoria Foundation is committed to matching dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000.

It has been of great benefit to assess where southern Illinois stands in these interest areas, enabling us to understand who we are as a culture and where we want to go as a region. The findings of these round tables will be discussed and prioritized in a series of Town Meetings scheduled to take place at the four regional community colleges in October. The dates of the Town Meetings are: Shawnee Community College, October 3rd; Southeastern Community College, October 10th; Rend Lake College, October 17th; and John A. Logan Community College, October 24th. The fund

development campaign for the Community Works Endowment will kick off at the culmination of these Town Meetings. SICF will be reaching out to the regional community to step up and contribute to this permanent endowment, as every dollar given will be worth two! Southern Illinois will then have a fund from which grants can be made on an annual basis in these interest areas.

The round table discussions in the three interest areas have been a unique exercise for our community stakeholders, allowing us to place recommendations on the table for the public to discuss and prioritize. Workforce development challenges unique to our southern-most region have been openly discussed in a proactive way. These discussions have generated recommendations which will be presented to participants of the Town Meetings throughout southern Illinois. Ownership of these recommendations and input as to priorities will be gained from these attendees. As noted often in the Workforce Development round tables, people are our greatest asset, and we want them to have many opportunities to excel.

Please feel welcome to attend any or all of the CommunityWorks Town Meetings and take advantage of having your input into this regional prioritization exercise that will help set the course for our CommunityWorks Initiative grantmaking program.

For more information, contact Maggie Flanagan or Ruby Pulcher at 618-453-4775.

**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](mailto:accessinfo@mantracon.org). Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

## Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

On behalf of Vice Chairman Rendleman, Vice Chairwoman Roe, Vice Chairman Alongi, Vice Chairman Cabaness, and myself, I wish to thank all of you for the vote of confidence given to us at the Annual Meeting on June 15, 2006. I vow to continue my efforts to serve the Board to the best of my ability. Thank you for extending me the opportunity once more.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Carroll Turner who has retired from the Board after twenty three years of service in the workforce development arena. Carroll was a charter member of the Private Industry Council under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), the predecessor of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Carroll has also been an active member of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. While I will miss his leadership and expertise, I wish him health and happiness (great golfing) in his retirement.

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## SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Executive Committee

The committee met, reviewed and approved the Program Year 2006 meeting schedule. The schedule will be submitted to the SIWIB for ratification at the September 21st meeting. In other business the committee received and accepted a report on the Community-Based Job Training Grant which was presented by Director Kathy Lively. Chairman Armstrong had written a letter of concurrence in support of the grant submission.

Director Lively reported on the GIS mapping information for the Connect S.I. project. The Director stated the Connect S.I. Steering Committee was aware that many counties had already accumulated mapping information and the Steering Committee was trying to see if that information could be placed on the internet by Connect S.I. and if the counties might be able to charge a fee for the information.

Director Lively explained the status of the second year funding for the CSSI Healthcare grant. She stated that a letter from DCEO had made funding commitments unattainable. Since the original letter, DCEO had been in contact with the Director and had given verbal assurances that OMB circulars may have been misinterpreted. Vice Chairman Rendleman asked if second year funding would be sought. Until written assurances are received from DCEO, the Director thought it prudent to abstain from making official application for second year funding.

The committee discussed the use of the tracking system particularly at the Mt. Vernon One-Stop Center. There was a discussion about the tracking systems in use and the probability that numbers were being understated at the Mt. Vernon One-Stop.

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## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

### Work Certified Program

Work Certified is a national work readiness initiative sponsored by a grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DCEO) as part of Governor Blagojevich's Opportunity Returns initiative and is administered by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and Man-Tra-Con Corporation. Work Certified was developed to create "job ready" candidates for entry level positions. The program was designed by employers who recognized that the workforce lacks certain soft skills and work ethics.

Work Certified consists of 90 hours of training that is taught in 3 one-week sessions. There are nine training modules that include pre-employment, customer service, business math, reading, business writing, business tools, general business

knowledge, and two modules of job skills. But this training goes beyond just teaching students how to write a good resume.

During the training, students are expected to treat the classroom as their place of business. They are to behave professionally at all times, and to show proper grooming and respect for their colleagues. Students are given tough attendance standards to ensure that they understand the importance of a good work ethic.

Through this program, students will learn to look at their careers through an employer's eyes. They will learn to understand what qualities are important to employers and why. They learn how to interview with confidence. Students are taught to understand their role in an organization and how to take pride in doing their job well.

Local students who have participated in this unique program say that they have

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## Executive Committee

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The committee discussed a finding which resulted from the last fiscal monitoring by DCEO. The finding was that DCEO felt a form 1099 should be issued to students who received over \$600 in stipends from the youth programs. According to our accountants the 1099 forms are not required in this situation. The committee directed Ms. Lively to contest the finding with DCEO.

## One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee decided that with all that is happening right now it might be best to only request nominations for the Individual Achievement Award. This is the award where the winner selected by the Board is sent to the Governor's Workforce Development Conference held in Springfield in late October.

The nomination form was forwarded to all partners with a deadline for nominations of August 14, 2006. The winner will be recognized at the Southern Illinois Workforce Board meeting in September. Final nominations are due in Springfield by August 28, 2006.

The committee hopes next year to once again have nominations in all categories.

## Youth Council

The Youth Council has been busy planning WIA youth programs that provide better services to youth and accommodate the new Common Measures. The new measures require youth to receive a credential, be employed or attending a post secondary school in the first quarter after they exit the WIA program. If they scored below 9th grade in reading and/or math, they must increase their grade level one functioning level. The Council advertised for separate proposals in education and employment services. Of the \$330,000 received for the PY 2006 youth programs \$180,000 were allocated for employment services and \$150,000 for education services.

The Council received employment proposals from John A Logan's JEEP Program for \$75,236.55 and the Mt. Vernon Alternative

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## Spotlight On...

### BOARD MEMBER JAMES MCPHAIL

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James McPhail serves as Chairman of the Marketing Committee of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board, on which he has served since January, 2000.

Following service in the U.S. Air Force and taking his Bachelor's degree at Texas Western College, Jim enrolled in the Masters program in marketing at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in the fall of 1962. After graduation, Jim began a rewarding career in sales with Procter and Gamble's food division that lasted until 1995 when he retired from P&G with thirty-two years of service.

Over the decades, Jim has been very active in the West Frankfort community as a member of many civic and fraternal organizations, as well as serving as a member of the Crosswalk Community Action Agency Board of Directors. In addition, Jim has been the fifth and sixth grade basketball coach at St. John's Elementary School for thirty six years. He is also very active in youth baseball as well.

Jim is proud to say he has been involved in politics all of his adult life. He has served as the Park District President in West Frankfort and has served as a Franklin County Board member for twenty years.

Jim and his wife, Rachel, raised their five children – four sons and one daughter – in West Frankfort. After forty eight years of marriage they are proud of their eleven grandsons and two granddaughters. Their fourteenth grandchild is expected in December 2006.

Jim's hobbies include running, walking a mile a day and basketball. ■



James McPhail

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## Work Certified Program

(Continued from page 2)

learned how to present themselves to employers in a more positive manner. Students have gained confidence, have refreshed math skills, and have learned to read personal signals from others better.

Many of the students from this area have been dislocated workers. They questioned at first what they could gain from a job-readiness program when many of them have been in the job market for many years. What many say they have learned is that being in class is not so scary.

A large number of Work Certified participants have gone on to college level coursework. They are earning credentials that will enable them to enter new careers and find success in a new field. Workers who are just entering the job market, workers who have had difficulty keeping a job, and even dislocated workers with a good work history all find benefit in the Work Certified program. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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★ **SIWIB Board Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge of Mt. Vernon, 1107 Jordan Street in Mt. Vernon.** ★

*Additional information about SIWIB Initiatives and board members can be found on our web site at [www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org).*

### *Youth Council Report*

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School for \$25,000 totaling \$100,236.55. The proposals will serve 40 youth. Both proposals were approved for full funding.

Four education proposals were submitted with a combined total request of \$227,218.50; \$77,218.50 more than was available. The Council approved all four proposals at reduced amounts, Carbondale Community High School Rebound \$69,600; John A Logan's JEEP Program \$38,852.80; ROE 25's Mt. Vernon Alternative School \$28,000 and United Methodist Children's Home \$13,547.20. The contracts will serve a total of 76 youth.

The new contracts began September 1, 2006, and will end June 30, 2007. ManTraCon will provide employment services to 36 youth who are not included in the employment contracts. ■

### *Message from Our Chairman*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Also retiring from the Board were Cheryl Dillon, Yoshiko White and Raymond Lenzi. We wish them well and thank all of them for their service on the Board. I also wish to welcome Gail West to the Board. Gail is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Marion and will serve as one of our two economic development representatives on the SIWIB. Please extend a warm welcome to her! ■

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

**One-Stop Committee Meeting**  
8:00 a.m. at the  
Marion One-Stop Business  
& Employment Center

#### SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

**SIWIB Meeting**  
6:00 p.m.  
Elk's Lodge of Mt. Vernon  
1107 Jordan Street

#### SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

**Waging a Living PBS Film**  
11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Marion One-Stop Business  
& Employment Center

#### DECEMBER 14, 2006

**SIWIB Meeting**  
Great Room,  
Rend Lake Resort  
Whittington, Illinois