



# SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 10: DECEMBER 2007

## SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

### EXECUTIVE

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**Rodney Cabaness, 2nd Vice Chair**  
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**Michele Rheinecker, 4th Vice Chair**  
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### BOARD DEVELOPMENT

**Milton Maxwell, Chair**  
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**Kathy Lively, Vice Chair**  
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### BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**John Hammack, Vice Chair**  
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### ONE-STOP

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### WIA POLICY & PLANNING

**Michele Rheinecker, Chair**  
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**Vice Chair**  
To be elected

### YOUTH COUNCIL

**Tyler Young, Chair**  
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Visit our web site at  
[www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org)

## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

### Investing in Nursing Shortage Solutions

BY CARY MINNIS

Governor Blagojevich's Economic Development Subcabinet, Regional Nursing Workforce Initiative is investing \$200,000 in Connect SI through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This initial investment will establish a regional public-private initiative led by Connect SI to develop and implement solutions to healthcare shortages beginning with nursing. Connect SI will be one of two pilot projects in the state, and will be working in consort with our metropolitan counterpart in northeastern Illinois.

Connect SI was selected for this initiative due to the great work that has already been accomplished in this area. Now this work will be finalized with the assistance of state agency partners. Connect SI and state partners will define the regional industry demand for nurses, detail the training pipeline capacity, identify challenges to create additional capacity, identify solutions to expanding capacity, and implement solutions specific

for the region to build a robust pipeline of nursing professionals for southern Illinois.

We are seeking partners from all types of healthcare providers and educational institutions including: high school vocational directors, deans of university nursing programs, community college directors of nursing, nursing executives, human resource managers, and bedside nurses to work with Connect SI to develop a comprehensive preschool to PHD plan for eliminating the shortage of nurses in the region.

The State Leadership Team supporting the work of Connect SI is comprised of senior leaders from the Departments of: Financial and Professional Regulation, Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Human Services, Public Health; the Illinois State Boards of Education and Higher Education; the Illinois Community College Board,

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## Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to thank all of our Board members and especially our officers (Vice Chair Mary Roe, Vice Chair Rodney Cabaness, Vice Chair John Alongi, Vice Chair Michelle Rheinecker, Parliamentarian Milton Maxwell and Treasurer Kathy Lively) and our committee chairs and committee members for all of their leadership and dedicated service for the employers and residents of southern Illinois. These individuals have taken time from their hectic schedules to provide the leadership which makes our local workforce development system work so effectively.

I also wish to thank all of our County Board Chairmen (CLEO Chairman Wayne Bigham, CLEO Vice Chairman Brent Gentry, Franklin County Board Chairman Randall Crocker, Jackson County Board Chairman John Evans and

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SIWIB DECEMBER MEETING



Clockwise from top left: Larry Woolard chats with John Rednour and Brent Gentry; Board members network at dinner; Board Members Milton Maxwell and Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Young pose for a holiday photo; Chairman Bill Armstrong and Bob Hopkins share a laugh.

## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

### *Investing in Nursing Shortage Solutions*

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Illinois Housing Development Authority. These state agency leaders will aid in the development of public-private solutions and identification of resources to alleviate the shortage of nursing in southern Illinois.

Two meetings with state partners and the Connect SI group have been scheduled. These meetings will create the plan for our regional initiative.

The project launch meeting was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. State agency partners were present to address the regional industry demand for nurses and detail the training pipeline capacity as documented in state level databases. On Monday, December 17 state partners were present to identify challenges and solutions to expanding capacity in southern Illinois. ■

## SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### *Business & Economic Development Committee*

Due to the state minimum wage increase effective July 1, 2007 to \$7.50 per hour, the Business and Economic Development Committee has been charged with reevaluating the current wage requirements for participation in both on-the-job training (OJT) and incumbent worker training (IWT) programs. After discussion and review of the local labor market, the committee recommended the following increases.

Employers must be willing to pay at least \$8.50 per hour for participation in the OJT program. This is an increase of \$1.00 per hour from the \$7.50. Businesses must already be paying \$8.50 per hour, or agree to pay no less than \$8.50 upon completion of the IWT program. The hourly wage was originally set at \$8.00.

The board was asked to accept these recommendations in order for the policies and procedures, in addition to marketing materials be revised to reflect the increases.

A guest speaker, Christy Herzing, the DisabilityWorks Resource Coordinator, provided information on this program to the board through a video presentation. Ms. Herzing is located at the One-Stop Business and Employment Center in Mt. Vernon. ■

## Spotlight On...

### MAN-TRA-CON'S NEW OFFICE



Kathy Lively, executive director of Man-Tra-Con, participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the open house celebration for Man-Tra-Con's new Carbondale office.

### *Man-Tra-Con Corporation Celebrates "Open House" in Carbondale*

An "Open House" celebration was held at the Man-Tra-Con Corporation office in Carbondale, Illinois, on Monday, December 10, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event was sponsored by the Man-Tra-Con Corporate Board Members, Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs), and the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (SIWIB).

A ribbon cutting ceremony began at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Meredith Rhoads, Director of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, welcomed Ms. Kathy Lively, Executive Director of Man-Tra-Con Corporation, Mr. Wayne Bigham, CLEO Chairman, Milton Maxwell, Mary Sullivan, Angela Homes and many other guests who were present to celebrate the event. Guests were invited to attend the "open house" celebration, meet our friendly staff, and try out the resource room equipment.

The Man-Tra-Con Carbondale office provides access to employment, education, and training services and offers businesses and job seekers easy access to a network of resources at the local, state and national level. Man-Tra-Con Corporation also provides access to a wide variety of services and programs to help individuals achieve their employment, education and career goals. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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

## Message from Our Chairman

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Jefferson County Board Chairman Ted Buck) for their leadership and vision for southern Illinois.

I wish also to thank all of our partners in the One-Stop Centers and the Consortium of Operators for providing their leadership, for negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding, and for providing their services to our many customers.

I offer a very special "Thank you" to Kathy Lively for the myriad of services she and her staff provide. Kathy's accomplishments were recognized by the state of Illinois with the awarding of the State's Individual Leadership Award this year. She has nearly doubled the size of her staff to meet the needs of our customers and has increased funding this year by \$3.3 million over last year's \$7.8 million budget.

Lastly, I wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year! ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 9, 2008

**Youth Council Meeting**  
4:00 p.m. at the  
Marion One-Stop Business  
& Employment Center

### JANUARY 15, 2008

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

*Have a wonderful  
holiday... see you  
all next year!*