



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 7: ISSUE 1: SPRING/SUMMER 2011

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Visit our Web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB Partners: Collaborating to Ensure Prosperity for Southern Illinois

The *Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (SIWIB)* was created to provide targeted guidance and oversight toward workforce development efforts within Local Workforce Area 25 — a five-county area comprised of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry and Williamson counties. SIWIB members include representatives from business, labor, education and other organizations committed to developing a highly skilled, quality workforce component — critical to economic development and prosperity for southern Illinois.

Collaboration is critical to the prosperity of any region, and SIWIB members work closely to provide programs and services for adults, youth and employers that support workforce development initiatives within our local area. The following is an overview of SIWIB partnering organizations and how each contributes toward workforce and economic development goals, and the SIWIB vision for ongoing prosperity.



Adult Education Area Planning Council

*SIWIB Member
and Partner Liaison —
June Hickey, principal,
Carbondale High School,
Operation Rebound*

As partners of the One-Stop delivery system, Adult Education and Family Literacy providers are critical to local workforce and economic development initiatives. Adult Education and Literacy programs assist low income students; individuals with disabilities; single parents; displaced homemakers; and persons with multiple barriers who are attempting to achieve educational goals, including those learning English as a second language.

Under the guidance of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), adult education and literacy programs provide instruction in the following areas:

- Adult Basic Education
- Literacy
- Adult Secondary Education (including GED exam preparation, high school credit courses, and vocational training for entry-level employment)
- Life-coping Skills
- Parenting Skills
- Citizenship Training for Immigrants
- English as a Second Language
- Job-seeking Skills
- Classes (for public assistance recipients to prepare them for employment.)

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SIWIB News is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published 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 specific access information please contact (Voice) 618-998-0970, ext. 230, (TTY) 618-998-9602, or cindywebb@mantracon.org. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

Message from Our Chairperson...



MARY M. ROE

This edition of the SIWIB News highlights all the partners who work together in our Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA).

We often receive recognition from the state about the ease in which we create our Memorandum of Understanding, the agreement documenting partner contributions to our One Stop costs.

Agency partners meet and discuss the costs and needs of serving the general public in our One Stops and then work out proportionate shares of the cost based on agency benefit. In many areas this process is difficult and contentious with partners refusing to sign the final document. Our great folks sit down and through a series of meetings

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SIWIB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee met on December 7, 2010, and February 8, 2011. This is a summary of approved minutes from those meetings.

Traffic Reports

Cindy Webb reviewed Resource Center Visitors Reports for November 2010 and January 2011. There were a total of 1,022 visitors to the One-Stop Centers in November and a total of 1,714 visitors to the One-Stop Centers. Cindy Webb noted that traffic has increased at the Carbondale One-Stop Center with 479 visitors. This number is very close to the total number of visitors at the Marion One-Stop Center.

Marion One-Stop Business and Employment Center

Gary Sporre and Jill Maaks from John A. Logan College will be assisting in the Marion One-Stop Center on Wednesday afternoons.

Mt. Vernon One-Stop Business and Employment Center

New full-time employee for the resource room, Daniele Mick, began on 12/1/10.

Illinois workNet

Cindy Webb reported that LWIA 25 recorded 213 new registrations for November, ranking us 4th in the state. New registrations have increased dramatically since October. Cindy also encouraged the members to review the Illinois workNet site. There have been many impressive changes made to the site recently. Cindy mentioned that members could submit upcoming event information to her via email and she can post it on the Illinois workNet site. The site is an excellent free marketing tool not only for WIA providers, but also adult education providers, literacy providers, IDES partners and veterans' services.

At the February meeting, Cindy Webb noted that the Illinois workNet website is beginning another redesign. On the left side of the home page there is a link to review the new design and provide feedback. The redesign is scheduled to be complete by July 2011. There are also changes to the manner in which Illinois workNet and IWDS sites communicate and the tracking of customers.

Closures and Layoffs

Jamie Galli reviewed the Closures and Layoffs Report. Krys Fisher has been able to assist some of the Anheuser Busch customers and will also be adding approximately 5 new Neon/Everbrite customers that will go into training. Jamie reported at the February meeting that Neon is laying-off one to two people per week. Neon did negotiate a new contract. Jamie also reported that there have been three attempts at intake sessions for Emerson Transportation.

Program Updates

Michelle Cerutti reported that Man-Tra-Con is currently enrolling Adult and Dislocated Worker customers for training for the spring semester, as well as enrolling customers for the OJT program. Due to extra funding received, the plan was modified to incorporate \$15,893 of additional dislocated worker funds that have been reallocated to us.

Michelle Cerutti reported the "Put Illinois to Work" program had been extended again until January 15, 2011 for current workers. PITW was the only summer program that continued into 2011, other than the Attucks Community Gardens program. Eleven older youth are participants of the Community Gardens program through June 30, 2011.

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SIWIB Partners

Adult Education Area Planning Council

(Continued from page 1)

The following programs serve Local Workforce Area 25 to provide Adult Education and Family Literacy services:

Carbondale Community High School — Operation Rebound

High School Credit Coursework, Adult Basic Education and GED Preparation, Family Literacy Programming, Employment Readiness Assistance, and English Literacy Training.

Evaluation and Development Center, SIUC — Adult Education

GED Exam Preparation (both in classroom and online), Adult Basic Education, Individualized Instruction, English as a Second Language (ESL), Job Seeking Skills, Basic Computer Skills, and the Penny Severns Summer Reading Program.

John A. Logan Adult Basic Education

GED Preparation, Adult Basic Education classes in math, reading, and writing, employability skills, and parenting classes.

Rend Lake College Adult Education and Family Literacy

ABE, GED, Parenting, Job Skills and ESL classes at various locations throughout the Rend Lake College District.

For additional information on Adult Education and Literacy programs, visit the Illinois Community College Board website at <http://www.iccb.org>.



Crosswalk Community Action Agency

*SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Debbie Jackanicz, executive director*

Community Action agencies were created in 1964, under the federal “Economic Opportunity Act,”

to address the specific needs of local areas while providing access to education, training and employment.

Crosswalk Community Action Agency (Crosswalk CAA), a private not-for-profit corporation, was established in January 2000. Crosswalk CAA administers a variety of programs that serve low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families living in Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson and Williamson counties. Their mission is to promote self-sufficiency and help eliminate the causes and effects of poverty by improving conditions in which people live, work and learn, and to address the day-to-day needs of clients. Eligibility for Crosswalk assistance is generally based upon household income, however income eligibility levels may vary depending on the funding source for each program. *(Continued on page 4)*

Message from Our Chairperson...

(Continued from page 2)

make difficult choices with strong, mutual respect apparent at every stage of the process. LWIA 25 is often the first workforce area to have our signed MOU turned in to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO).

The MOU process is just one of many examples of the successful collaboration that exists between WIA partners making a difference in southern Illinois. The Transition Team from the Maytag/Whirlpool and TUMS plant closures is yet another example of agency service and education providers throughout the region going “above and beyond” to serve people in a difficult situation.

Please take the time to read through the newsletter so that you, too, will understand how fortunate we are in our region to work with the partners highlighted. I look forward to seeing you this week and working through these difficult financial times as we remain committed to serving the workforce needs of our region. ❖

SIWIB Partners

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

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Crosswalk CAA programs include:

■ **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** — assists low-income households pay for winter energy services.

■ **Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)** — helps low-income residents save fuel and money while increasing the comfort of their homes by providing weatherization work that may include: sealing cracks with weather stripping and caulk, insulating attics and walls, and repairing windows and doors. Weatherization services may also include having an experienced heating contractor examine a client's heating system to ensure sure the heating system is safe and in good working order. Furnace repair work such as cleaning and tuning, repair, retrofitting, and in some cases, replacement of the unit may also be provided.

■ **Home Repair and Rehabilitation Program** — falls under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, established by the U.S. Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and is administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Community Development Block Grant for Illinois is known as the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP).

The mission of this program is to assist Illinois communities in meeting their greatest economic and community development needs, and provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for low-and-moderate income individuals and persons with disabilities.

For the past several years, Crosswalk staff have written and administered

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Legislative Update...

FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS (NAWDP)

Can “Carry-Over” Fund the Workforce System in Program Year 2011?

H.R. 1, the House-passed Continuing Resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, zeroes out all new funding for WIA’s (Title I) Adult, Dislocated Workers and Youth formula grant programs in Program Year (PY) 2011.

A summary of H.R. 1 published by the House Appropriations Committee states “These programs have significant carryover balances from prior year appropriations and have already received \$1.5 billion in advance funding available for the current fiscal year,” seeming to assume that the workforce system can be sustained through next year with current year funding and carryover.

This assumption is not accurate.

Regarding the “advance funding” — The \$1.5 billion referred to by the Committee is funding that was appropriated in the FY 2010 appropriations bill (out of FY 2011 advance funds) for use in this program year. These funds were made available for use October 2010 through June 2011. H.R. 1 eliminates all funding in FY 2011 for the WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs, and eliminates the entire advance in FY 2012 for use by the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs from October 2011 through June 2012. **This means that as of July 1, 2011 there would be no new WIA grants to States and local workforce areas under H.R. 1.**

Regarding carryover or unexpended funds — The WIA system has always been required by statute, to obligate at least 80% of its funding each year. The system has been allowed to carry over not more than 20% of its unobligated funds (for 2 additional years). In recent years however, appropriators have looked at the system’s “unexpended” instead of its “unobligated” funds when determining system carryover, an examination that does not take into account funds that are encumbered or set aside to pay for multi-semester training (for participants who are already enrolled) and other commitments that cross program years.¹

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¹ In a 2009 report the Government Accountability Office (GAO) wrote, “Labor’s process for determining states’ available funds considers only expenditures and does not consider the role of obligations in the current program structure... As a result, Labor’s estimate of expenditure rates suggests that states are not spending their funds as quickly as they actually are. Labor’s Office of the Inspector General has also noted that obligations provide a more useful measure for assessing states’ WIA funding status if obligations accurately reflect legally committed funds and are consistently reported.”

One-Stop Committee

Program Updates

(Continued from page 2)

Michelle Cerutti reported at the February meeting that Man-Tra-Con is working with the community colleges to begin Quickbooks Training targeting dislocated workers and low-income adults. Michelle asked committee members to notify Man-Tra-Con with referrals for the training. The training will also incorporate a week of basic computer skills for individuals with that need.

Man-Tra-Con is also working with Adult Ed for healthcare to assist ten individuals. Michelle noted that there are extra funds available to help with curriculum development at the community colleges to assist with green sector training. Michelle reminded members that Man-Tra-Con does have funding and will be advertising for On-The-Job Training and asked members to refer customers and/or businesses that may benefit from the program. Man-Tra-Con is also looking for Math tutors at John A. Logan College and Rend Lake College.

Other

Kay Fleming discussed the enrollment cap recently put in place for all programs. JALC will monitor enrollment for the spring semester. If the cap is reached, enrollment of new students will be stopped, so retention is critical.

Alan Summers inquired about the status of the Tax Counseling Project held at the Marion Man-Tra-Con location. Kathy Lively stated the number of volunteers and customers have decreased from previous years. The number system for the customers that began last year has helped in the wait time for customers. Various factors have

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Legislative Update...

FROM NAWDP: Can “Carry-Over” Fund the Workforce System?

(Continued from page 4)

Last year, WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs carried over \$1.1 billion in unexpended funds from PY 2009 to PY 2010. This represented a 28% carryover of the total available for these programs in PY 2009, with local areas carrying over or “not expending” 21% of funds available in PY 2009 — or about \$600 million out of \$2.8 billion. **And it must be noted that much of this “carryover” is not really available, though it shows as “unexpended,” as it is encumbered, particularly at this time of increased demand for training services.**

Lesson Learned from Prior Rescission — In FY 2008, when the WIA system lost \$250 million through a rescission of “unexpended funds,” \$114 million (or nearly half – 45%) of the \$250 million rescission had to be taken from PY 2007 current year funds. The rescission was based on the notion that unexpended balances carried into PY 07, would cover the rescission. **This assumption was wrong.** A 2008 NASWA survey found that with the exception of three states, all others needed waivers to use PY ‘07 funds for the rescission, while nearly 75% of local areas had to use PY 07 funds to pay for the rescission. The carryover that appropriators point to now, (based on amounts carried into PY 2010), is about the same amount as that carried into PY 2007 — \$1.1 billion. If history serves as a guide, this argues that the anticipated carryover at the end of PY 2010 will fall far short of amounts needed to carry the program through PY 2011. If the true unexpended carryover in PY 2007 really equaled only \$136 million, then how will the system, under similar circumstances, lose \$3.6 billion and not be devastated. Those States and local areas that have had high demand for services and that have provided services aggressively would likely have very little, if any true carryover to provide services for next year. ❖

Source: www.nawdp.org

One-Stop Committee

Other

(Continued from left)

contributed to the decrease in the number of customers utilizing the free service.

Cindy Webb discussed the job clubs that are provided in Mt. Vernon by the Re-Entry Group for ex-offenders seeking potential employment. Kathy Lively mentioned the Jefferson County Promise is a 12-step program that also helps individuals who

are re-entering society. Cindy Webb stated that to her knowledge there was not an age limit for the job clubs.

Kathy Lively suggested that committee members and organizations be in touch with others at the national level to discuss actual issues and realities regarding customer assessments in the One-Stop Centers.

Victor Harris reported an increase in requests for migrant workers. Illinois doesn't

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One-Stop Committee

Other

(Continued from page 5)

have many residents showing interest in agriculture work and immigrants are willing to do this type of work. Victor suggested interested individuals contact IDES.

Kay Fleming discussed a new bridge program (Healthcare Services Program available at John A. Logan College) designed to help students needing a GED with career development. Participants of the program should be ready to take the GED and enter college classes upon completion. The program began on March 1, 2011. John A. Logan College is working with Michelle Cerutti at Man-Tra-Con to enroll WIA eligible individuals. Kay Fleming noted that participant interest and recruitment are the biggest issues.

Kathy Lively distributed folders from the Illinois Workforce Partnership for the committee members to review. The materials include information regarding the 26 One-Stop Centers, local workforce areas and contact information. Information is also available at www.illinoisworkforce.net.

Meeting Schedule for 2011

The committee discussed and approved a motion initiated by Kathy Lively to schedule One Stop Committee meetings every other month on the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00am beginning with the February 8, 2011 meeting.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on January 12, February 9, March 9, March 16, and April 13, 2011. This is a summary of approved minutes from those meetings.

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SIWIB Partners

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

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several housing rehabilitation grants on behalf of local units of government. Eligible homeowners within designated areas may receive financial assistance in the form of deferred loans and grants. This program is designed to rehabilitate substandard homes with an emphasis on health and safety issues. Some typical repairs under this program include, but are not limited to, plumbing and electrical upgrades, door and window replacements, roof repair, and new heating systems.

- **Emergency Home Repairs** — Limited funds are available for emergency home repairs to help low-income homeowners, who are not eligible for the home rehabilitation program, pay for small emergency repairs.
- **Mobility and Accessibility Rehabilitation Services (MARS) Program** — offers housing rehabilitation assistance for persons with disabilities. Funding is provided through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Eligible persons with disabilities are pre-selected to receive rehabilitation assistance through this funding.
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** — provides a range of services that help low-income people attain necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to achieve self-sufficiency. The program may also offer low-income people immediate life needs. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the CSBG Program in accordance with federal law and the Illinois Economic Opportunity Act. The following programs are also funded by the CSBG:
 - **Small Business Loan Program** — offers long-term, fixed-rate financing to new-or-expanding businesses in exchange for job creation and employment. Under the “microloan” program, Crosswalk can finance 100% of a business creation or expansion up to \$20,000. When project costs exceed the \$20,000 threshold, the “revolving-loan” program can finance up to 49% of a business creation or expansion. Certain guidelines and restrictions apply.
 - **Scholarship Program** — provides financial assistance to low-income and disadvantaged persons of high academic achievement or potential. These scholarships can be used toward formal education or occupational training at an accredited Illinois institution, with particular consideration given to fields of study in high technology areas or other growth occupations.
 - **Emergency Services Program** — Funded from a variety of sources, this program is intended to provide “one-time-only” assistance to individuals and households who are truly experiencing an emergency situation and who are in need of immediate life necessities, such as shelter, medicine, etc. Outreach sites for emergency services are available in Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, and Williamson counties.
 - **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)** — Created in 1983 to supplement and expand the work of local social service agencies, both non-profit and governmental, in an effort to help people with non disaster-related economic emergencies.

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Youth Council

Youth Program Update

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Youth Program Update

Youth Services Coordinator Stephanie Castellano reported on the Year 'Round Youth Program. As of March 9th, there were 191 active youth participants; 110 were in-school youth and 81 were out-of-school youth. In addition, there were 137 youth in follow-up services. Man-Tra-Con youth specialists and service providers continued to enroll new youth customers. Providers were required to meet 100% enrollment by March 31, 2011. All providers met this requirement with the exception of Youth-Build. YouthBuild met 75% of their required enrollment on March 31, 2011.

Youth Services Specialist Melissa Cauthen reported on the Attucks Community Gardens program at the January meeting. The group has been working with composting and in the greenhouses. They have also been devoting time to classroom activities and workshops such as nutrition, media, and anger management.

Ms. Castellano reported at the March meeting that the Attucks Center had received a generous donation of vacant land lots to be used for the gardens. Five participants of the Attucks Community Gardens program have been attending an agriculture class every Thursday in Mt. Vernon, plus a five-day food safety and sanitation course. The class was provided through the University of Illinois.

RFP Update

Man-Tra-Con hired a technical writer on a temporary basis to help assist with the RFP and to be an independent evaluator. Ms. Holladay and Mr. Henry volunteered to be members of the 2010 RFP committee.

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SIWIB Partners

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

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- **Homeless Prevention Services** — Available for individuals and families who are actually homeless or are about to become homeless. Assistance may include help with rent or mortgage payments, and assistance to move people out of a homeless situation or, if possible, prevent a homeless situation from occurring.
- **Food Pantry** — Crosswalk CAA provides food assistance to residents of Franklin County. The food pantry is open every Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. However, clients can only receive food once a month.

For additional information on programs provided by Crosswalk CAA, please visit their website at <http://www.crosswalkcaa.com> or call (618) 973-3581.



Illinois Department of Human Services: Human Capital Development

SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Alan Summers, regional administrator, DHS,
Division of Human Capital Development

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) consists of six different divisions that provide a variety of social services to residents of Illinois. The Division of Human Capital Development is one of the six, created to help residents achieve independence and maximum self-sufficiency.

DHS: Division of Human Capital Development provides financial, medical, nutritional, homeless, childcare, crisis, refugee, immigration, employment and training assistance to low-income eligible Illinois residents.

Financial assistance programs administered by DHS are available to persons who have little or no income. There are two primary programs serving two different populations:

- **State Supplemental Payment** — for individuals who meet specific criteria to bring their income up to a specific level based on need.
- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** — for persons who are pregnant or have a dependent child or children. The TANF program replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program in 1997. TANF is not an entitlement program and is time-limited by law to no more than 60 months. During the program period, persons eligible for TANF are assisted in a variety of ways to ensure that they become self-sufficient through employment and training opportunities.

Other programs available through DHS: Human Capital Development include:

- **Medical Assistance Programs** — administered by DHS are varied and eligibility is generally based upon an individual's age, level of income, and — in some

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Youth Council

RFP Update

(Continued from page 7)

Ms. Castellano presented the proposed RFP at the March 9th meeting. The following are highlights of proposed changes:

- Providers are incentivized to serve more youth since more achievements equal more reimbursement.
- Education providers will no longer be responsible for any employment or 12-month follow-up.
- MTC staff will be performing initial assessment and intakes.
- Youth participants will receive supportive services up to an average maximum of \$500 in educational services and \$500 in employment services.

The Youth Council requested a comparison of provider reimbursement and how it would be impacted if the new changes go into effect. The Council approved the proposed RFP after viewing a comparison presentation by Stephanie Castellano at the March 16th meeting.

The Council also voted to approve the payment of supportive services for up to 44 weeks until Youth achieve their literacy and numeracy gain goal, and up to 52 weeks until they achieve their GED or high school diploma. Youth will also receive supportive services for up to 53 weeks while in the employment/job search component of their program.

The RFP was released on Friday, April 1, 2011 and is currently posted on SIWIB website on the Youth Council page. The bidders conference was held on Friday,

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SIWIB Partners

DHS: Human Capital Development

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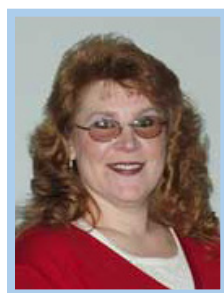
circumstances — assets. To be eligible, a person must either: be pregnant, have dependent children living with them, be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Persons eligible for medical assistance usually have their medical needs covered by the medical card. Assistance may also include transportation to medical appointments, dental and vision care and long-term care in nursing or supported living facilities.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** — formerly known as the Food Stamp program, helps persons who are under 133% of the Federal Poverty Level receive assistance in meeting their nutritional needs. Benefits are provided via an electronic benefit transfer card commonly known as LINK.
- **Childcare Assistance** — Parents whose income is within guidelines and who are working, attending school or receiving TANF may have their child care costs subsidized through this program. Depending upon their level of income, a co-payment is required which increases as the family income increases.

DHS currently manages 1,394,661 cases through various programs, which serve 2,764,187 persons in the state of Illinois. In the SIWIB service area of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry and Williamson counties, 30,988 cases are managed by DHS and 65,108 people are served monthly.

“In these tough economic times, the partnership between DHS and the WIB is a critical bridge for those receiving social services but desire re-entry or advancement in the workplace,” says Alan Summers.

For additional information about DHS programs, office locations, and eligibility requirements, visit their website at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us>.



Illinois Department of Human Services: Division of Rehabilitation Services

*SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Joan Jablonski-Baxter, regional administrator,
DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services*

The **Illinois Department of Human Services: Division of Rehabilitation Services** is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) helps people with disabilities and their families make informed choices as they strive to become participating members of the community through employment, education and independent living.

DRS decision-making policies are targeted to the needs of the customer. DRS strives to create a “customer- friendly” work environment, where staff and clients collaborate to achieve personal career or educational goals as they work toward independence.

DRS is committed to achieving the following goals:

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Youth Council

RFP Update

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April 8, 2011, and representatives from Project E.C.H.O., Rebound, and MERS Goodwill attended. Ms. Castellano presented the new RFP to the prospective bidders. Questions and answers from the bidders conference are also posted on the SIWIB website. Proposals were to be received in Man-Tra-Con's Marion office by April 29, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Year Round Contractors' Reports

Year Round Contractors' Reports for November and December of 2010 and January, February, and March of 2011 were approved as presented.

Other

Kathy Lively informed the committee that a leadership day or activity day for the youth participants in the spring is being considered. There will be more details to follow in the coming months. ❖

*Have a wonderful,
fun-filled Summer
with family and loved
ones... until we meet
again in September!*



SIWIB Partners

DHS: Division of Rehabilitation Services

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- **Independence** — Provide services that will enable DRS customers to achieve the highest level of independence
- **Productivity** — Achieve a high level of productivity by efficiently serving eligible customers and helping them attain successful outcomes
- **Job Quality** — Increase the quality of jobs obtained by VR program customers
- **Service Quality** — Continually improve the quality of services provided by DRS in all program areas
- **Customer and Staff Experience** — Create a work environment that results in a positive experience for customers and staff.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services includes four major bureaus: Bureau of Field Services, Bureau of Blind Services, Bureau of Home Services, and the Bureau of Disability Determination Services.

- **Bureau of Field Services** assists individuals with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining and maintaining quality competitive employment. Services include evaluation, guidance and counseling, education, training, physical and mental restoration, assistive devices, job development, job placement, and post-employment services.
- **Bureau of Blind Services** helps adults who are blind or visually impaired rediscover their independence and achieve their employment, education, training, and independent living goals. Services include: specialized vocational rehabilitation services; a short-term residential program for adults who are newly blind or visually impaired; independent living services for older individuals who are blind, and the Illinois Business Enterprise Program for the Blind.
- **Bureau of Home Services** provides a wide range of services to individuals with the most significant disabilities to enable them to remain in their homes and live as independently as possible. Services also include specialized services for people with HIV/AIDS or brain injuries.
- **Bureau of Disability Determination Services** determines the eligibility of people to receive benefits under Social Security's disability programs, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

In addition, DRS includes:

- **Client Assistance Program**
- **Services for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing**
- **Services for persons with disabilities who are Hispanic/Latino**
- **Independent Living**
- **Educational Services**
- **Administrative Support services**

The Department of Rehabilitation Services provides assistance to people with

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FROM NAWDP... Are Federal Workforce Programs Effective?

Millions of people each year receive education, training, and employment services through the One-Stop system supported by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

■ In 2009, more than 8 million people were served through WIA programs. More than 4 million people were served by these programs in just the first quarter of Program Year 2010. WIA participation rates increased 234% over the past two years.

■ In the past year, even at the height of the Recession, more than 4.3 million WIA participants got jobs; hundreds of thousands more received education and training to help them prepare for new careers.

Federal investments in the workforce system show significant returns on investment, helping individuals get jobs, improve their earnings, and contribute to their local economies in countless ways.

Based on extensive research, Christopher King at the University of Texas and Carolyn Heinrich at the University of Wisconsin-Madison find that workforce development programs are not only effective, but result in a significant return on investment for its customers and for society. They conclude that the ROI on workforce investments is *“particularly remarkable given [the] magnitude and intensity of workforce investments relative to size and complexity of barriers they address.”* (*How Effective Are Workforce Development Programs? 2010*)

■ **EXAMPLE:** A 2008 study found that a range of workforce programs in Texas generated sizeable returns on investments for participants, taxpayers and society. Every dollar invested in workforce services (including WIA programs,

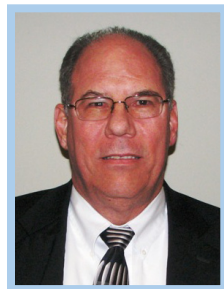
(Continued on page 11)

SIWIB Partners

Illinois Department of Employment Security

(Continued from page 9)

disabilities in 48 local offices throughout the state of Illinois. For additional information about DRS programs, office locations, and eligibility requirements, visit their website at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us>.



Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —

Victor Harris, local office manager, Murphysboro, IDES

The **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)** supports economic stability throughout the state by paying unemployment benefits, connecting employers with qualified job seekers, and providing economic information to assist in career planning and economic development.

The primary mission of IDES is providing employment security and unemployment assistance to help individuals and families survive while innovative teams and economic development groups work to restore past jobs and/or create new employment opportunities within southern Illinois.

IDES provides employment services and guidance to workers, job seekers and employers through a statewide network of employment offices and **Illinois workNet®** centers. The agency combines federally funded job training programs in Illinois to create a workforce development system where individuals can look for work, plan a career change, refine a resume or obtain job training.

The **Illinois Skills Match** program, developed by IDES, connects qualified job seekers with employers looking for specific talents and abilities. In conjunction with partner services, the **Illinois workNet®** program helps individuals identify career paths, and provides businesses with tools needed to recruit, train and develop a competitive workforce via an online website portal. According to IDES partner liaison Victor Harris, these broad-based efforts are critical to workforce and economic development in Illinois.

Specialized programs have also been developed to help specific groups succeed:

- **Military veterans** residing in Illinois
- **Ex-offenders** rebuilding their lives and re-entering the workforce after being incarcerated.
- **Young adults and teenagers** seeking assistance with identifying and developing their skills and special talents
- **Displaced workers** in Illinois looking to upgrade their skills and re-enter the workforce.

IDES is also a premier source for labor market information. IDES provides employment statistics and job forecasts as well as wage comparisons and demographic

(Continued on page 11)

Are Federal Workforce Programs Effective?

(Continued from page 10)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families workforce services, veterans services, employment services and other programs) generated \$1.63 for participants, \$1.17 for taxpayers and \$1.52 for society over five years.

(Returns from Investments in Workforce Services: Texas Statewide Estimates for Participants, Taxpayers and Society, 2008, p. v)

■ EXAMPLE: “Each WIA program demonstrates a positive ROI impact... resulting from participation in the program. For... the Adult program, \$3.97 is returned... for each dollar spent and the investment is returned... in almost eight months. For dislocated workers, the investment is also returned in almost eight months... returning \$4.74 to the community for each dollar invested... investments in youth are repaid in approximately 11 and a half months and youth are expected to return \$3.14 to the community for each dollar invested in their training.” *(Idaho Annual Report to DOL, PY 2008, pg. 5)*

■ A cost-benefit analysis of Youth-Build’s targeted intervention program aimed at youthful offenders found (1) evidence of reduced recidivism and improved education outcomes, and (2) a positive benefit-to-cost ratio, showing that every dollar spent on every court-involved youth is estimated to produce a minimum return of \$10.80. *(Costs and Benefits of a Targeted Intervention Program for Youthful Offenders: The YouthBuild USA Offender Project, 2008)*

Research demonstrates that individuals who receive services through the workforce system show positive outcomes for both employment and earnings gains.

■ In his 2011 *State of the State* address, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour reported, “Now, every year, the
(Continued on page 12)

SIWIB Partners

Illinois Department of Employment Security

(Continued from page 10)

information. This information is provided to help monitor and forecast national, statewide and local economic trends. The information and analysis is also available to help individuals, businesses, community groups or local governments make informed decisions about job prospects, training, education and economic development.

“IDES is proud of its role and responsibility in supporting economic stability across the state. Today, more than ever, public and private sectors must work together to support each other’s strengths. We must use education, job training, and career counseling programs to help our clients develop the strength, confidence and abilities they will need to create productive ways of living. As we move forward together, please know that Department staff and resources are available to each of you in our concerted effort to support individual families as well as the economy,” states Victor Harris.

Additional information about IDES programs and services can be found on the website at <http://www.ides.state.il.us>.



John A. Logan College

SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Dr. Bob Mees, president, JALC

John A. Logan College (JALC) was established in 1967, began enrolling students in the fall of 1968, and acquired its current Carterville, Illinois campus in 1969. Named in honor of Civil War General John A. Logan, the College seeks to

create a “diverse learning and teaching community committed to improving life and society through high-quality, accessible educational programs and engaged learning opportunities.”

John A. Logan College contributes to the workforce system by providing customized training, offering career education, providing access to its facilities, and forming partnerships with other community, education, and workforce groups.

■ **Customized Training** — The College created the Workforce Development and Community Education (WDCE) department in 1998. The WDCE department provides customized training to approximately 20,000 students annually to assist them with employment opportunities, career advancement, job upgrading, career planning, occupational and basic education.

■ **Career Education** — The College offers certificate and degree career education programs to prepare students for employment in occupations related to business, education, health, industry, office technology, or public service.

■ **Facility Usage** — The College offers its facilities to businesses and community groups. The campus, located in a tranquil setting with easy accessibility and

(Continued on page 12)

Are Federal Workforce Programs Effective?

(Continued from page 11)

[Workforce Enhancement Training] fund puts about \$20 million into workforce development and skills training at our 15 community colleges, which do a great job. A study of graduates of WET fund financed programs show they make \$4,300 more per year than before that training, and our improved, skilled workforce has been a reason companies like Toyota, GE Aviation, PACCAR, Severstal and a long list of very high-tech energy companies have come to Mississippi."

■ A 2008 DOL report, found positive outcomes for WIA Adult program participants, stating "[T]he results... imply large and immediate impacts on earnings and employment for individuals who participate in the WIA Adult program... Those who obtained training services have lower initial returns, but they catch up to others within ten quarters, ultimately registering larger total gains," of more than \$400 to \$700 per quarter, and these gains held up over the 16 quarters studied. (*Workforce Investment Act Non-Experimental Net Impact Evaluation Final Report, 2008*)

■ A 2008 DOL evaluation of the Youth Opportunity Grant found positive results, noting increased educational attainment, Pell Grant receipt, labor market participation, and employment rates and earnings for more than 90,000 program participants. The study found that the program increased overall labor-force participation rates, specifically for teens ages 16 to 19, women, native-born residents, blacks, and in-school youth; increased the employment rate among blacks, teens, out-of-school youth, and native-born youths; and positively impacted the hourly wages of women and teens. (*Evaluation of Youth Opportunity Grant, 2008*)

■ Another study conducted in 2005 found that WIA programs lead to positive employment and earnings gains for

(Continued on page 13)

SIWIB Partners

John A. Logan College

(Continued from page 11)

ample, free parking, is an ideal place to attend classes, seminars, and conferences. The facilities have state-of-the-art computer labs, classroom space, conference rooms, and expansive flexible space for large equipment and hands-on demonstration training. A center for students sponsored by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was established on the College campus to provide offices for WIA counselors, room for studying and tutoring, and a lounge area for students to congregate.

■ **Partnerships** — The College is committed to building relationships with businesses, government, social service agencies, economic development groups, organized labor, other educational institutions and community-based organizations. College employees network extensively within district communities and serve on community boards and committees.

In addition, the following departments are available on campus to support workforce and economic development:

■ **Adult Basic/Secondary Education** — contains three components: Adult Basic Education/GED for students working toward obtaining a GED diploma; a Literacy Program for adults interested in upgrading their basic reading, writing, math and language skills; and Adult Secondary Education to help students complete high school, plan for secondary education, career exploration and/or successful employment.

■ **Center for Business and Industry** — Created to develop customized training programs geared to specific business and industry needs, the Center also identifies and develops educational programs for emerging occupations; and coordinates conferences, seminars, and workshops dealing with work force topics or events targeted to area businesses, organizational groups, and governmental agencies.

■ **Continuing Education** — A wide variety of courses, lectures, and tours is available for adults interested in furthering their education while employed or in retirement.

■ **Sustainability Center** — The College has joined the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), a partnership of community colleges that seeks to expand employment opportunities in the emerging green economy. The newly created Sustainability Center promotes sustainable practices on campus and in the community.

Although JALC works closely with Man-Tra-Con Corporation and SIWIB partners, the College also collaborates with many other organizations to support workforce and economic development within southern Illinois. The following is a partial list of those organizations:

- **American Heart Association (AHA)**
- **Connect SI**
- **Illinois Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)**

(Continued on page 13)

Are Federal Workforce Programs Effective?

(Continued from page 12)

adults and dislocated workers. In addition, participants in WIA programs were less likely than non-participants to receive public assistance. The authors concluded that WIA services, including training, are effective interventions for adults and dislocated workers (increasing employment by about 10 percentage points and average quarterly earnings by about \$800 (in 2000 dollars), when measured in terms of net impacts on employment, earnings, and receipt of TANF for participants.

"They yield positive results for men and women and for both the adult and dislocated worker populations."

(Net Impact Estimates for Services Provided through the Workforce Investment Act, 2005)

■ In 2004, a study looking specifically at the returns of training for Dislocated Workers in the State of Washington, found that dislocated workers receiving training of one year or more at a community college saw increases in employment of nearly 6 percent over similar individuals who did not receive training, as well as higher quarterly earnings of about 9 percent for men and 13 percent for women. The study delved further however, and found that earnings could be increased by \$1600 per year on average, or an increase in earnings of 14 percent for men and 29 percent for women if the year of study was focused on more technically oriented vocational and math and science courses (including training in healthcare). *(Estimating the Returns to Community College Schooling for Displaced Workers, 2004)*

■ A random-assignment study of sector-based training programs — increasingly used to meet the training needs of workers and the skill needs of employers — found that such training initiatives have significant positive impacts for program participants,

(Continued on page 14)

SIWIB Partners

John A. Logan College

(Continued from page 12)

- Illinois Central Management Services (CMS)
- Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)
- Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- Illinois Emergency Management Association (IEMA)
- Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN)
- Illinois Nurses Association (INA)
- Illinois Secretary of State (SOS)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Laborers Local 773
- Marion Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDCO)
- Southern Illinois Personnel Managers Association (SIPMA)
- Southern Illinois University/Illinois Entrepreneurship Network

John A. Logan College is committed to any form of collaboration that ensures the mutual success and prosperity of southern Illinois. President Bob Mees states, ***"John A. Logan College has a history of developing harmonious and effective working relationships. The College needs partnerships if it is going to provide better prepared workers and a supply of skilled graduates to the business community. Teamwork and collaboration are extremely important and I am committed to do what is necessary to sustain and expand partnerships. Successful partnerships represent a win-win situation for everyone."***

Additional information about the College, programs and services offered can be found on the website at <http://www.jalc.edu>.



Rend Lake College

*SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Charley D. Holstein, president, RLC*

Rend Lake College (RLC) was originally founded in 1955 as Mt. Vernon Community College, officially becoming Rend Lake College in 1966 under the Illinois Junior College Act. Classes at the current 350-acre campus in Ina, Illinois, began in the fall of 1970.

In 2002, two off-campus sites were added — the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon, and the Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Campus in Pinckneyville, followed by The Hitting Zone (a baseball/softball training facility) in 2003. The Applied Science Center (home of the Agricultural Business, Agricultural Production, Agricultural Mechanics, Heavy Equipment and Diesel Technology programs) opened on campus in 2005.

(Continued on page 14)

FROM NAWDP... Are Federal Workforce Programs Duplicative?

Recently the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued 2 reports identifying 47 federal programs that provide some form of employment and training services. A number of policymakers are citing these reports¹ as proof of extensive duplication and overlap between federally funded workforce development programs.

A careful examination of the programs highlighted in the GAO reports, actually finds limited duplication between programs. Many were created by Congress to address the unique needs of targeted populations (the disabled, Native Americans, farmworkers, veterans). Others were established by Congress as components of larger block grants with broader purposes (the employment and training provisions of TANF and SNAP).

Of the 47 programs identified by the GAO, just 3 programs — WIA's Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Wagner-Peyser Employment Service programs — served more than 19 million participants, accounting for nearly 80% of the 24 million people served by the federal workforce development system. These three programs, the backbone of the U.S. employment and training delivery system, accounted for approximately 32% of total funding for employment and training activities in FY 2009.²

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SIWIB Partners

Rend Lake College

(Continued from page 13)

RLC contributes to workforce and economic development by offering over 55 Associate Degree programs and over 40 Occupational Certificate programs. These are transferable to four-year Universities and often lead to better paying employment opportunities. The College also offers the following educational programs:

- **Adult Education & Literacy** — helps students learn basic reading, writing, math, social and computer skills. The program also offers courses in Adult Basic Education, GED, ESL (English as a second language)
- **Adult Volunteer Literacy** — falling under the Adult Education & Literacy program, this component recruits and trains volunteer tutors to help adults learn the basic skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency and succeed in life. The Adult Volunteer Literacy Program partners with public libraries throughout the Rend Lake College district in Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton and Perry counties to provide convenient meeting sites for tutors and learners.
- **Community Education** — offers classes on a variety of topics to children, adults and seniors interested in lifelong learning or continuing education.
- **Co-Op Education/Employment** — An On-the-Job-Training/Internship program that connects students with jobs relating to their majors.
- **Correctional Education** — provides vocational certificate programs to Big Muddy River Correctional Center and Pinckneyville Correctional Center as part of RLC community outreach efforts.
- **Online Courses** — allow RLC students to complete courses on a variety of subjects via internet access: Advanced Technology, Applied Science, Business, Early Childhood, Education, GED, Health Ed, Liberal Arts, Math and Science.
- **Studio RLC** — available to students interested in pursuing a career in Cosmetology.
- **Upward Bound** — A federally funded college preparatory program designed to provide academic support, personal/career counseling, and cultural/social enrichment to students who have a history of academic excellence.

The following centers, available on campus, also contribute toward workforce development initiatives:

- **Academic Counseling Center** — offers assessment testing, educational planning and career development, and includes a Career Center to help students define and achieve career goals, as they prepare to enter the workforce.
- **Center for Business** — Designed to meet the training/retraining needs of business and industry, the Center provides a unique variety of courses and customized training opportunities to adults seeking full-time employment.

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1. See <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11441t.pdf> and <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1192.pdf>

2. These numbers, including the \$17.6 billion total reported by the GAO, are skewed due to a nearly \$5 billion one-time increase in funding in 2009 for these programs as a result of the Recovery Act.

Are Federal Workforce Programs Duplicative?

(Continued from page 14)

Another 22% of funding for employment and training in FY 2009 supported programs that provide services for disabled veterans and other individuals with disabilities.³ These individuals often face severe challenges entering into and succeeding in the labor market (*only 17% of all individuals with disabilities were employed in January 2011⁴*) and often require highly-specialized services and equipment that cannot easily be provided through more general programs. Another 23% went to programs that focus on low-income and at-risk youth⁵, who have been particularly hard-hit by the recent Recession; while the national unemployment rate for January was 9%, the rate for individuals between the ages of 20-24 was 15%, and 26% for 16-19 year-olds.⁶

It is certainly true that workforce programs could be better aligned and streamlined to ease access and service delivery for both workers and employers. It is not the case, however, that there is duplication in the actual provision of services for the populations served by these individual programs. While the GAO finds that a number of programs offer similar services, it also notes that

(Continued on page 16)

3. *Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States, Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans, and Projects with Industry.*

4. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>, Table A-6.

5. *Job Corps, YouthBuild, the Workforce Investment Act Youth formula grant program, and the National Guard Youth Challenge program.*

6. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>, Table A-10.

SIWIB Partners

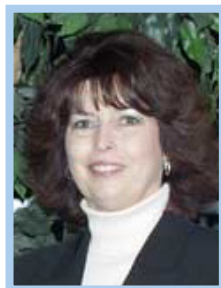
Rend Lake College

(Continued from page 14)

- **Learning Resource Center** — A member of the Shawnee library system offering facilities for study, research, leisure reading, class preparation, and Internet access.
- **Small Business Development Center** — offers “one-on-one” confidential counseling to help entrepreneurs start or expand an existing business.

Rend Lake College is committed to providing “*educational opportunities across cultural and economic boundaries to the diverse student population that we serve. In addition to our commitment to fulfill all our education and community-focused program objectives, we are committed to every degree-completing student demonstrating the fundamental skills of effective critical thinking, problem-solving, oral communication, and written communication. In fulfilling its mission, Rend Lake College will be an active leader in our region’s development. Our students’ success is our own success.*”

For more information about programs and services offered at Rend Lake College, visit the website at <http://www.rlc.edu>.



Man-Tra-Con Corporation

SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Kathy Lively, chief executive officer,
Man-Tra-Con Corporation

Man-Tra-Con Corporation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, has been providing workforce services to job seekers and employers for over 30 years through funding provided by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Under guidance from Chief Local Elected Officials and the SIWIB, Man-Tra-Con collaborates with SIWIB partners and other organizations to support the economic health of southern Illinois by providing services designed to build a skilled workforce and enhance the quality of life for customers served.

Man-Tra-Con serves Local Workforce Area 25 with offices in Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, and Williamson counties. All Man-Tra-Con offices provide services to anyone in search of education, employment or business assistance. All centers are equipped with research material, state-of-the-art computers with access to the Internet, Fax machines and phones for job search or employer needs. In addition, Man-Tra-Con offers personal assistance to those who qualify.

Services for Job Seekers

The following services and resources are available to individuals seeking to develop a career path or find employment:

- **Job Search** — Resource room staff are available to help job seekers with resume and interview preparation. State-of-the Art computers in all resource

(Continued on page 16)

Are Federal Workforce Programs Duplicative?

(Continued from page 15)

“Even when programs overlap, the services they provide and the populations they serve may differ in meaningful ways.” (pg. 17, GAO report)

The GAO makes a number of recommendations that would move the system toward better program alignment; many of these recommendations are already in place at the state and local levels, and multiple federal agencies are similarly focused on improving alignment, increasing efficiency, and streamlining services. These efforts would be greatly strengthened if Congress would take up long overdue reauthorizations of the WIA and TANF program. It is through the reauthorization process — not the appropriations process — that concerns about alignment, overlap, and increased efficiency should be addressed. ❖

Source: www.nawdp.org

Are Federal Workforce Programs Effective?

(Continued from page 13)

particularly those who are low-income and low-skilled. Participants in sector-based training programs earned 18% more than control group members in the first year and more than 30% in the second year, and were more likely to work, work more hours, work in jobs that offer benefits, and work consistently. Furthermore, these initiatives were found to create a lasting change in the labor market to the benefit of both workers and employers. (*Job Training That Works: Findings from the Sectoral Employment Impact Study, 2009*). ❖

Source: www.nawdp.org

SIWIB Partners

Man-Tra-Con Corporation

(Continued from page 15)

rooms offer access to Illinois workNet.com, an online job search portal. Books and videos offering instruction on resume writing, interviewing, job searching, etc., are also available.

- **Job Leads** — are posted daily on job boards and the Man-Tra-Con.org website to connect job seekers with businesses listing employment opportunities with Man-Tra-Con.
- **Career Development** — Skills assessment and development software is available, plus “one-on-one” personal assistance for eligible customers, to help job seekers identify interests and develop a career path.
- **Rapid Response** — Mass lay-off assistance to help dislocated workers transition to new careers and/or employment via job search assistance and/or additional skills training.
- **Financial Assistance** — for tuition, fees, daycare, gas, uniforms, and supplies is available (dependent on funding) for those who qualify and are in need of occupational training.
- **Assistive technology** — hardware and software for those with special needs

Services for Employers

Man-Tra-Con Business Services representatives collaborate with economic development organizations to develop a skilled workforce pool for new and existing business. Man-Tra-Con makes a special effort to identify the unique needs of local employers when connecting them with quality workers. The following services are available to employers within LWA 25:

- **Recruitment and Referrals of Qualified Applicants** — provided to help employers screen for candidates and avoid expensive advertising fees.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** — Allows customers to upgrade job skills while earning a paycheck. Man-Tra-Con pays up to 50% of their wages during the training period.
- **Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)** — Financial assistance to upgrade the skills of current employees.
- **Labor/market Research and Information** — includes job and wage data, plus industry growth trends, forecasts, etc.
- **On-site Interviewing and Conference Facilities** — Available at any of Man-Tra-Con’s five office locations.
- **Referrals to Business Tax Credits and Savings** — Provided to help employers make money-saving connections.

Services for Youth

Man-Tra-Con partners with the Youth Council to help young adults 16-21 years of age develop and achieve career and educational goals. Services to youth are provided via contracts with Youth Service Providers and Man-Tra-Con Youth Service Specialists. The Youth Council directs how local WIA youth services are

(Continued on page 17)

FROM NAWDP...

NAWDP 2011

Recommendations for WIA Reauthorization

(Approved February 2011)

Ensure that the system continues to serve the needs of employers.

■ Employers are the ultimate customers of the system and the key to economic recovery. Therefore, it is imperative to maintain the requirement that the majority of the workforce investment boards must be business leaders.

■ To eliminate duplication of efforts and to ensure that there is a specific plan for providing services to local businesses, local workforce investment board and the one-stop center should have a written plan how services will be provided to local employers.

■ Include a specific requirement that local employment and training funds should be used to provide services to employers that address their workforce needs.

Improve the capacity of the system

■ In order to keep pace with the changing requirements of the local economy, individuals who work within the system must have access to regular and meaningful professional development. Therefore, the state plan should address how professional development and certification, as appropriate, for workforce development professionals will be provided.

■ Customers have a right to expect an accessible center with the quality equipment and software necessary to fully receive needed services and training. In order to ensure this, however, there should be specific support provided for the infrastructure of one-stop career centers.

Eliminate barriers to assistance

■ Local providers must have the flexibility to utilize all available and appropriate resources to provide training for job seekers and dislocated workers. The reauthorized legislation should

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SIWIB Partners

Man-Tra-Con Corporation

(Continued from page 16)

delivered, selects service providers, and conducts oversight of Youth programs for the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (SIWIB). Services to help eligible youth develop and achieve goals include:

- **Tutoring**
- **Study skills training**
- **Alternative secondary school and GED classes**
- **Summer employment opportunities**
- **Paid and unpaid work experience**
- **Occupational skills training**
- **Leadership development**
- **Supportive services**
- **Adult mentoring**
- **Guidance and counseling**
- **Follow up for 12 months after program completion**

Community Initiatives

Man-Tra-Con works in partnership with numerous agencies at local, state and federal levels to develop and implement initiatives that enhance service to the community. Connect SI, one of the most recent regional initiatives and collaborative partnerships, seeks to bring economic prosperity to southern Illinois through broadband connectivity. The following projects are included under the Connect SI plan:

- **Health Information Exchange (HIE)** — Plan to implement a full-functioning electronic health record system that takes advantage of shared information to improve the quality of healthcare for residents throughout southern Illinois.
- **I Want My Broadband** — Online form for those seeking broadband Internet service to submit their contact information. The information is then sent to local providers and helps the Connect SI team gauge service needs within the area.
- **Lead SI** — designed to ensure a continuous supply of “homegrown” leaders for the future of southern Illinois and prevent young residents from seeking employment or residence in other areas.
- **Project Netwise** — a community-based effort to promote safe Internet practices to students and senior citizens in southern Illinois.
- **Southern Illinois Online Nursing Initiative (SIONI)** — a new full-time, hybrid-online associate degree nursing program under development to address the shortage of registered nurses (RNs) in southern Illinois.
- **Future of Energy** — A discussion series that includes approximately four events each year focusing a various aspects of energy and how they relate to southern Illinois.

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NAWDP Recommendations

(Continued from page 17)

maintain the definition of postsecondary educational institution that currently is in WIA.

- Requiring customers to endure a lengthy process before they can access the services that are necessary to secure employment is a waste of public funds and disrespectful to the customer. While the integrity of the intake system must be respected to ensure appropriate use of resources, the legislation to remove the arbitrary requirement for specific sequence of services. The Tiers of service should be structured to allow for flexible and efficient progress of individuals through the Tiers of service based on individual need and/or program.
- Employment is the ultimate goal for all job seekers. Individuals with barriers may take longer to achieve the goal and the reauthorized legislation should provide for this situation via a regression model or through an alternative manner to measure progress towards the goal for some populations.
- Some job seekers, including many older workers and individuals with disabilities, need to work but may not be able to work full time. The current performance measure emphasis placed on earnings creates a disincentive to enroll these individuals in workforce programs. An alternative performance measure or flexibility in the current measure is needed to address this population's special requirements.
- Similarly, in situation where wage data is not available, other data that independently validates earnings should be included in performance data.

Ensure appropriate services for all job seekers

- Research indicates the devastating and far reaching impact of teen unemployment. Therefore, the new workforce

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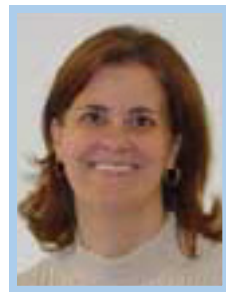
SIWIB Partners

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

(Continued from page 17)

“Man-Tra-Con’s primary mission is to collaborate effectively with our workforce partners to create quality workforce solutions throughout Local Workforce Area 25. In addition, Man-Tra-Con collaborates with innovative partners in economic development, healthcare, community and social service and education to create unique solutions to the workforce challenges we face. It is a privilege to serve the region and to work with passionate leaders committed to a brighter future in beautiful southern Illinois.” — Kathy Lively, CEO

For additional information about Man-Tra-Con and services provided, visit the website at <http://www.ManTraCon.org>.



Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM)

*SIWIB Member and Partner Liaison —
Dr. Mary Sullivan, executive director, SICCM*

The **Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM)** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation organized in 1973. The consortium is governed by a Board of Directors composed of presidents and chancellors of participating institutions and is staffed by twelve professional and two operational employees.

SICCM was organized to provide a means of sharing human and material resources in higher education to fast-growing institutions within the consortium. The members of the organization are John A. Logan College at Carterville, Kaskaskia College at Centralia, Rend Lake College at Ina, Shawnee Community College at Ullin, Southeastern Illinois College at Harrisburg, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Sixty percent of the twenty-five counties served by the five community colleges are included in the Lower Mississippi Delta Development region.

The established SICCM mission statement includes the following major goals: To utilize existing resources to the fullest extent possible, to avoid costly duplication of efforts, to plan cooperatively for the initiation of needed programs and activities, to share human and material resources to the greatest extent possible, to develop new delivery systems, to develop more flexible and common administrative structures to allow for effective student articulation and faculty sharing, and to increase educational opportunity and accessibility.

In its thirty-six-year history, the consortium has administered approximately \$48 million in grants and projects, all of which have been directed toward addressing regional needs and issues. Programs and projects include telecommunications/distance learning, welfare-to-work, nursing, allied health, economic development, research, articulation, faculty development and sharing, curriculum development, public services, labor-management cooperation,

(Continued on page 19)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 16, 2011

**Southern Illinois Workforce
Investment Board**
5:30 p.m. at
Man-Tra-Con
120 Southtowne
Shopping Center
Du Quoin, Illinois 62832



For more information about
upcoming SIWIB meetings visit:

[http://www.siwib.org/
displaymeetings.asp](http://www.siwib.org/displaymeetings.asp)

NAWDP Recommendations

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legislation should include specific authorization and funding for summer youth programs.

■ Migrant and seasonal farmworkers often find jobs in the food-processing sector of the agricultural industry, sometimes at plants operated near the fields in which they have harvested the same commodity. Those jobs sometimes cause farmworkers to become ineligible for 167 WIA services because they must earn more than 50% of annual wages in job classifications that exclude food processing. The new legislation should update poverty rate for farmworkers eligibility to 100% of the Lower Living Standard of Income Level.

Support innovation and linkages across the system

■ Local economic growth requires the linkages of many system elements. To promote industry/sector partnerships that lead to collaboration, regional

(Continued at right)

SIWIB Partners

Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market

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leadership and core values, and other aspects of serving higher education and community needs.

Current and past SICCM programs and projects include:

- **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Life Skills Grant**
- **Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)**
- **Health Information Technology (HIT)**
- **Associate Degree**
- **Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT)**, Associate Degree
- **Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)**, Associate Degree
- **Surgical Technology (ST)**, One-Year Certificate
- **Veterinary Technology (VT)**, Associate Degree
- **UCAN Life Skills** — operates five district offices covering two-thirds of the state of Illinois to assist ex-offenders and reduce recidivism (Illinois Department of Corrections)
- **East St. Louis Community College Center** administering agent (Illinois Community College Board)
- **Project Choice/TANF** (Illinois Department of Human Services)
- **Project Choice/FSE&T** (Illinois Department of Human Services)
- **Senior Service America, Inc.**
- **UCAN Life Skills for Ex-offenders** (Illinois Department of Corrections)
- **Rural Multi-Campus Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness Project** (U.S. Department of Education)
- **Eisenhower Grant** — providing distance learning and Internet training to math and science instructors (Illinois Board of Higher Education);
- **Southern Illinois Telecommunications Network (SITN)** (Illinois Board of Higher Education)
- **Ameren CIPS "Smartlights"**
- **U. S. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant**
- **U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant**
- **Project CHOICE (Creating Hiring Opportunities In Customized Employment)** — to assist welfare recipients in obtaining jobs (Illinois Department of Employment Security).

For additional information about SICCM programs and initiatives, visit the web site at <http://www.siccm.com>. ❖

planning, and resource alignment in key local sectors, a new national program for Industry or Sector Partnership Grant Program (similar to HR 1855 that was passed by the House in July 2010) should be created.

■ Wagner-Peyser facilitates the exchange of public labor market information. Therefore, a new provision should be added that funds may be used to create reciprocity agreements for sharing wage data with other states. ❖

Source: www.nawdp.org