



# SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 1: ISSUE 1: AUGUST 2005

## SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit our web site at  
[www.siwib.org](http://www.siwib.org)

## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

### Critical Skill Shortages Initiative

The Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI) was launched by the Governor's Office and the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in October of 2003. CSSI combined Workforce Areas throughout the state into Economic Development Regions. Workforce Area 25 and Workforce Area 26 were joined to form the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR) encompassing the 19 southernmost counties of Illinois.

The SEDR was awarded \$156,870 from DCEO to support the activities involved in the planning stage of the initiative. Over 200 individuals from business, labor, education, workforce development and economic development throughout the SEDR formed a consortium and participated by helping to achieve the goals of CSSI. As a result, two industries were identified as vital to the economy of the SEDR: Healthcare and the combined sectors of Manufacturing, Transportation, Distribution, & Warehousing. A grant proposal for the Healthcare sector was submitted to DCEO in August 2004 and another proposal for the combined Manufacturing sector was submitted in November 2004.

### Healthcare Grant

The Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI) Healthcare grant is up and running. The two main components of the grant are the mentoring program and a regional marketing campaign.

The mentoring program got off the ground shortly after the spring semester started. Mentors for Frontier Community College, John A Logan College, Rend Lake College, Shawnee Community College, Southeastern Illinois College, and Wabash Valley College have been hired and they are all very excited about working with their students. Several of the Mentors have already started working with students and it is expected that this fall they will have a full load. Currently MAN-TRA-CON, Corp., Mid-5 Employment & Training Inc., Shawnee Development Council Inc., and Wabash Area Development Inc. have started screening students for eligibility. Once a student is found to be eligible he/she can receive assistance with tuition and fees, mileage, daycare, uniforms, and mentoring. The mentors will be available to the students through their complete program, and until they take their board examinations.

The CSSI regional marketing campaign is also underway. The August issue of the Southern Business Journal is the ninth "aditorial" in this campaign. Several of the community colleges and hospitals that have been part of this initiative have been highlighted. Also highlighted in the ads were the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative, mentoring program, and Governor Blagojevich's announcement of the grant funds. While the SBJ is mainly a print journal it is also made available electronically. The current issue

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

## Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

As Chairman of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our very first issue of the SIWIB News. This newsletter is intended to keep SIWIB members informed about issues concerning the work of the SIWIB and WIA in general. Within this newsletter you can find information on the various committees and an update of their current activities. SIWIB initiatives are also highlighted as well as DCEO grant projects. A calendar of events and meetings including regional, state, and national conferences is provided. The SIWIB News will be posted on the SIWIB website for review. For those who find the internet as a preferred source of media the SIWIB News is also available for email distribution.

I'd like to thank Dr. Jack Hill and Mr. William Alstat for their leadership and dedicated service on the SIWIB. Both of these gentlemen have decided not to seek an additional term on the SIWIB. Dr. Jack Hill served as the Senior Community Service Employment Program representative on the Board. Dr. Hill was a member of the One-Stop Committee. Mr. William Alstat served as a business representative

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## COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Board Development

On Tuesday, July 19, 2005, the committee reviewed a sample newsletter and discussed the idea of using the newsletter to update SIWIB members on Board and committee activities. The newsletter would reduce the time required for committee reports at SIWIB meetings and allow time for action items, presentations, etc. The monthly newsletter's first issue will be sent out in mid August with subsequent issues distributed at the beginning of each month. The idea is to receive feedback from the membership about the publication for future issues.

### Business & Economic Development

The Business & Economic Development Committee is preparing for the Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference. Kathy Lively and Mary Ellen Bechtel are representing the SIWIB in planning the Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference which will be held at JALC in conjunction with the Southern Business Journal's Community Leadership Breakfasts. The date for this 10th annual event is September 29, 2005. The SIWIB, through TA funds provided by DCEO, will partner with the SBJ to co-sponsor key speaker Rebecca Ryan. Her topic will be, "Live First, Work Second: The New American Ethic and its Effect on Employers and Communities."

The committee created a letter of SIWIB vision and role in workforce development and sent the letter to all economic development leaders in our five county area. The letter can be found on the SIWIB website.

### Marketing

New Chairperson for the 2005 year is Mr. Jim McPhail and Vice Chair is Mrs. Crystal Lukens. New exterior signage

for our buildings in Marion and Du Quoin are in the works! The marketing committee is also gearing up for advertising services for customers who are pursuing careers in the industries targeted by the SIWIB. Those industries are Healthcare, Manufacturing, Distribution and Warehousing.

### One-Stop

#### Annual SIWIB Awards Banquet — Excellence in Action

On Tuesday, September 20, 2005, at John A. Logan Community College, the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board will recognize adults and youth who have overcome great odds to become successful. Awards will also be presented for business and partner collaboration involved in a workforce/economic development system that has shown excellent results. It is time to celebrate the efforts of all the partners in the One-Stop System network. At the Awards Banquet, both the customer and the staff will be recognized for their combined accomplishments with a beautiful plaque.

Award categories include: The Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award, Individual Leadership, Business Leadership, Business Collaboration, and Innovative Solutions.

For additional information, please contact Zina Nolen at (618) 998-0970, Ext. 213.

### Youth Council

The Youth Council usually spends summer months writing and advertising RFPs, holding bidder's conferences, reviewing and rating proposals and then making recommendations of contracts for youth programs to the SIWIB. This year, for the first time, after careful review, members voted not to let RFPs,

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## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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can be viewed online on the Southern Business Journal's website (<http://www.sbj.biz/>), and the archived ads can be viewed on the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative's website (<http://www.mantracon.org/cssiasp/>).

### Manufacturing, Transportation, Distribution, & Warehousing

During the 7-month planning phase of CSSI, several manufacturing employers participated in focus group meetings and summits to discuss the issue of worker shortages in this industry sector. These employers identified worker shortages related to a lack of foundational skills for entry-level positions across all manufacturers in southern Illinois. According to all participants, foundational skills include areas such as teamwork, basic math, basic business understanding, general manufacturing processes, work ethic, mechanical aptitude, and computer skills.

*Work Certified*, developed by the Treasure Coast Workforce Board of Florida, is a work readiness program that addresses all of the foundation skills entry level workers must possess. A grant proposal was submitted to DCEO in November of 2004 requesting funds to support delivery of the Work Certified program. ■

#### **Total CSSI funds awarded to the SEDR:**

<i>Planning Grant</i>	\$156,870
<i>Healthcare Grant</i>	\$558,000

### Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign

The Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign is an initiative of the SIWIB Economic Development Taskforce being championed by Dr. Glenn Poshard. This region-wide beautification campaign sets up Beautify

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## Spotlight On...

### WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, SIWIB CHAIRMAN

William Armstrong wears many hats in Southern Illinois. To his family he is known as a husband and father. He's known to us as our Chairman, but his leadership doesn't stop there. Not only has he been a member of the SIWIB for three years, but he has also served and shown exceptional leadership roles for other organizations as well. Better known to all of us as "Bill", Mr. Armstrong also serves as the current Chairman of Crosswalk Community Action Agency, where he has been a member for seven years now. He is a member of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and the Jefferson County Board. Mr. Armstrong has previously served as Chairman of the Jefferson County Board and Chairman of the Chief local Elected Officials of Workforce Investment Area #25 and past member of the Mt. Vernon Economic Development Commission.

Bill has invested his experience in other governmental boards. His current appointments include work with governmental boards such as the Jefferson County Mental Health Board and the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. Bill also serves as Executive Director of the Housing Authority, City of Mt. Vernon. Bill still finds the time for involvement with non-governmental boards as well, which include the Board of Directors and Treasurer of both the Caravellia Residential Centers and the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club. Bill also serves as the Chairman of the Jefferson County Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign. He is preparing for and organizing the September 10th "Beautify a Mile" clean up effort in Jefferson County.

In addition to all of the above, Bill also finds time for his business where he serves as President and CEO of Armstrong Accounting. He has an impressive thirty years of experience in accounting. ■

## COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Youth Council (Continued from page 2)

but allow current contractors to request one year contract renewals at the same funding level. The Youth Council received renewal requests from Carbondale Community High School's Rebound, John A. Logan's "JEEP" Program, Regional Office of Education #25's Alternative School and Rend Lake College's "YES" Program. At the July 13th meeting the council voted to recommend approval of all to the SIWIB. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B  
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## INSIDE:

- **CSSI Healthcare Mentoring Program Gets Underway**
- **Annual SIWIB Awards Banquet to be held at JALC on Sept. 20th.**
- **SIWIB sponsors Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign**

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

## SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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Southern Illinois committees in each county in southern Illinois.

The goals of the Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign are to develop comprehensive long-range strategies for

- Keeping our major roadway systems clean and attractive,
- Keeping our municipalities clean and attractive, and
- Assisting our schools in implementing educational initiatives which will create positive environmental awareness and encourage participation in maintaining a clean community.

For more information on the Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign, please visit the *website* [www.beautifysouthernillinois.org](http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org). ■

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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on the Board. Mr. Alstat was Second Vice Chairman of the Board and served on the Business and Economic Development Committee. Prior to his service on the SIWIB in January of 2000, Mr. Alstat served on the Private Industry Council and as the Chief Local Elected Official of Jackson County. We thank them for their service and we hope we can count on their continued support of the work of the Board. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 30, 2005

Executive Committee Meeting,  
DuQuoin office

### SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

Beautify A Mile

### SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

SIWIB Annual Awards Banquet  
in the Tarvin-Crisp room at John  
A. Logan College, Carterville.

### SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Southern Illinois Economic  
Development Conference at  
John A. Logan College

### OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2005

Workforce Development  
Conference, at the  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
in Springfield