



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 1: ISSUE 4: NOVEMBER 2005

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Visit our web site at
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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

CSSI: Healthcare

The Critical Skills Shortage Initiative (CSSI) healthcare initiative is kicking into high gear. Since the September 30th Steering Committee meeting, several projects have begun. The projects include: obtaining employer sponsored career ladder opportunities to be listed on the CSSI website, increasing recruitment for the mentoring program, and initiating discussions to address the training capacity in the community colleges' nursing programs.

Cary Minnis, Healthcare Liaison, and Robert Gazy, Research Assistant, developed an online survey in order to obtain information from healthcare providers about their career ladder opportunities. After gathering the contact information of healthcare providers in the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR), the team will send an invitation to complete the online survey. The gathered information will be posted on the CSSI website. This information will help job seekers and individuals looking for career advancement to find additional opportunities.

Student mentoring is ongoing. The Steering Committee intends to increase the number of students served by the grant. Additional campus recruiting began in October. Representatives from WIA providers throughout the SEDR will accompany the Healthcare Liaison on these visits to better inform students about their companies' eligibility requirements and policies. Appointments are scheduled and applications will be taken while the students are on campus.

An additional survey was developed and sent to community colleges to obtain information about their nursing programs and the challenges they face in expanding these programs. Once both surveys are reviewed, we will work to identify possible solutions, including additional state funding. We will also ask local healthcare providers for assistance with developing solutions and helping community colleges implement these solutions.

CSSI: Manufacturing Grant

Progress continues under this important initiative launched by DCEO throughout the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR). The major activity of this grant is the delivery of Work Certified, a work readiness skills training program, throughout the 19-county SEDR. A group of twelve instructors from all six community colleges participated in a 30-hour training session at the end of September and each have received certification to teach the program. The first classes for adults and dislocated workers are scheduled to begin November 14 at John A. Logan College and Rend Lake College. Pending an official announcement by DCEO of the manufacturing grant, a major marketing campaign will begin this month to promote the Work Certified program. Fliers publicizing the benefits of the program will be distributed through the

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I would first like to thank everyone who attended the Illinois Workforce Development Conference last month. Our strong attendance is reflective of our strong commitment to serving our communities and the southern region of Illinois. It is because of your commitment and efforts that we continue to make great strides in creating positive change in our area. Both the Workforce Development Conference and the Legislative Reception were well attended and very successful.

On October 29th the Help Our People with Emergencies (H.O.P.E.) committee successfully held their first annual Bocce Tournament. The mission of H.O.P.E. is to identify and alleviate financial crisis through temporary emergency assistance and referral to community resources. The committee has raised funds through donations and fundraisers such as the Bocce Tournament. The Bocce Tournament raised \$1,684. We would like to thank the sponsors: Man-Tra-Con Corporation, Alongi's Italian Restaurants, South Pointe Bank, and Southern Pride. The next HOPE fundraiser will be a meat sale in partnership with Great Boars of Fire located in

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Business & Economic Development Committee

The next meeting for the Business & Economic Development Committee scheduled for November 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in West Frankfort has been cancelled.

Marketing Committee

The SIWIB Marketing Committee meeting was held on Friday, September 16th at the Marion One Stop Center. The committee reviewed drafts of the new One Stop sign soon to be purchased. The committee also reviewed ideas for marketing items. The committee meeting scheduled for Friday, November 3rd at 11:00 a.m. at the Marion One Stop Center has been cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd, at 11:00 am.

One-Stop

Although the One-Stop Committee did not have a quorum for the regularly scheduled meeting on October 20, 2005, the members present discussed the information items included on the agenda. A Disability Mentoring Day was hosted at the Mt. Vernon satellite office on November 1, 2005. Christy Herzing, Disability Program Navigator for the region, coordinated this event to coincide with National Disability Mentoring Day.

Workshops on Basic Computer Usage, Internet Tools, Illinois Skills Match, and Resume Writing are underway at the Marion One-Stop Business & Employment Center. The one-hour long workshops are held each week at no cost to the public.

Ms. Martha Welch was awarded the Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award at the local awards banquet hosted by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board at John A. Logan College on September 21st. Ms. Welch was honored for her accomplishments of overcoming significant obstacles and achieving her personal career goals. Ms. Welch was also honored at the statewide Workforce Development Conference held in Springfield on Tuesday, October 25th.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met October 12, 2005, at Hamilton-Jefferson Regional Office of Education's Alternative School in Mt. Vernon. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Alternative School led by students who also attended the meeting. The meeting focused on a youth event at the end of April that all WIA youth would attend. Ina was chosen as the central location for the participants. A survey will be sent to youth to inventory what they would like to learn at the event. ■

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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One-Stop Centers and advertisements will run in local newspapers in order to recruit participants. Local employers will be contacted for program endorsements and to encourage them to advertise for "Work Certified" job applicants.

Work Certified addresses skills training in math, reading, writing, computer usage, basic business understanding,

and general manufacturing processes. Lectures, exercises, role-playing, and classroom interaction are utilized throughout the program to teach not only these basic skills, but to educate participants on the importance of teamwork, reliability, and dependability in the workplace.

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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For more information on the Manufacturing grant or the Work Certified program, please contact Lucinda Pearce at 618/998-0970, Ext. 226, or lucinda-pearce@mantracon.org.

Beautify Southern Illinois Campaign

On Saturday, October 22nd, there were numerous volunteers in all the counties of Southern Illinois wearing orange vests and carrying orange trash bags making Southern Illinois beautiful. This date was the nationwide "Make a Difference Day" and people throughout Southern Illinois made a difference in their community by cleaning up their adopted roads and highways. According to Paul Restivo, assistant campaign chairperson, all of the counties from Williamson and Jackson to Randolph were extremely successful with their clean up.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) supplied the trash bags and vests to all of the volunteers. Beautify Southern Illinois (BSI) volunteers and IDOT deserve our accolades for their hard work since the September 10th "Sign Up to Clean Up" event, where people signed up to adopt a highway. They worked diligently to supply the safety supplies and information to make the region-wide clean up a success.

"I am glad that we are starting to focus on the Southern Illinois area," said Kristen Taylor, IDOT Regional Development Coordinator. "We have been focusing more of our attention in Springfield and it is about time to focus the attention on the southern Illinois region."

The student group of BSI, Beautify Southern Illinois Student Alliance, succeeded in recruiting more than 70 student volunteers to clean up around

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Spotlight On...

DEBBIE JACKANICZ, BOARD MEMBER

Debbie Jackanicz began her career in 1979 at Man-Tra-Con Corporation, which was then called Illinois Farmers Union-CETA, Inc., and held several positions during her employment there — Clerk, Executive Secretary, Coordinator and Assistant Fiscal Officer.

After leaving Man-Tra-Con in 1996, Ms. Jackanicz became the Executive Director of the Big Muddy Community Action Agency (BMCAA). BMCAA merged with Volunteer Services, Inc. in January of 2000 to form Crosswalk Community Action Agency, Inc.

At Crosswalk, she was given the title of Associate Director, and then Executive Director in August of 2002. Crosswalk has a staff of 27 and administers a variety of programs, such as Housing Rehabilitation, Weatherization, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG).

Since becoming Associate Director at Crosswalk in 2000, Ms. Jackanicz has been very active. When asked about her job, Debbie will quickly say that she loves her job and feels great satisfaction in helping others. Under her direction, Crosswalk has been extremely successful in receiving competitive housing rehabilitation grants for Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson and Williamson counties. During the past three years, Crosswalk has brought in over 5 million dollars in competitive housing rehabilitation funds. Debbie takes great pride in having served on the Illinois Community Action Development Corporation (CDC) — a statewide board created to develop affordable housing throughout Illinois. The CDC's first project was the development of Strawberry Meadows, a 42-apartment complex located in West Frankfort, which opened in November 2003.

In addition to being a member of the Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA), Debbie serves on the Plumfield Water District Board.

Debbie is also the mother of two boys, Trey and Preston, and she has a beautiful eighteen month old granddaughter named Bailey Jo. ■



Debbie Jackanicz

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Carbondale. The volunteers ranged from Greek fraternities and registered student organizations to concerned students who wanted to make a difference in their new hometown. We are also looking forward to the upcoming slogan/logo/essay contest for BSI. This contest is a chance for kindergarten through high school students to participate in the campaign and put forth their creative ideas. The event will take place from November 7th-22nd. Principals and teachers have already received the information about the campaign and are very eager to participate in this endeavor. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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

MONITORING UPDATE

As mandated within the Workforce Investment Act, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will conduct the annual WIA Programatic Compliance Monitoring during the two-week period of November 7-10, and November 14-17, 2005. The monitoring visit examines policies, procedures, and actual case files for compliance and accuracy with State and Federal regulations. In addition, during the week of November 14, 2005, 54 youth files will be examined by separate monitors for data validation with Department of Labor (DOL) regulations.

The agency wide audit for the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 was conducted by Emling & Hoffman, P.C. Certified Public Accountants.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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Anna. Orders will be taken until Monday, November 7th, and will be picked up on Friday, November 18th from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Man-Tra-Con office located at the Illinois Centre Mall in Marion. Pre-arrangements can be made for delivery. For a menu of products for sale, contact Tammy Kirk by phone at (618)998-0970, ext. 215 or e-mail at tammykirk@mantracon.org. ■



CLEO Robert Barnett, of Williamson County, throws the first ball to start the H.O.P.E. Bocce Tournament.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Health Communities Coalition
12 Noon
One-Stop Business &
Employment Center
in Marion

DECEMBER 2, 2005

Marketing
Committee Meeting
11 a.m.
One-Stop Business &
Employment Center
in Marion

DECEMBER 15, 2005

SIWIB Meeting
Rend Lake Resort
in Whittington