



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 2: ISSUE 2: MARCH 2005

SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE

William Armstrong, Chair
e-mail: armstrong@mvn.net

John Rendleman, 1st Vice Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Mary Roe, 2nd Vice Chair
e-mail: roe@onecliq.net

John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair
e-mail: johnr@onecliq.net

Rodney Cabaness, 4th Vice Chair
e-mail: cabaness@aol.com

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Milton Maxwell, Chair
e-mail: info@siwib.org

Kathy Lively, Vice Chair
e-mail: kathyactively@mantracon.org

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Rendleman, Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Richard Morris, Vice Chair
rmorris@ides.state.il.us

MARKETING

James McPhail, Chair
e-mail: jimmac@mychoice.net

Crystal Lukens, Vice Chair
e-mail: irnsnfr@midwest.net

ONE-STOP

Patricia Drake, Chair
e-mail: pdrake@ides.state.il.us

Alan Summers, Vice Chair
e-mail: dhsz500@dhs.state.il.us

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tyler Young, Chair
e-mail: tyjr@midwest.net

June Hickey, Vice Chair
e-mail:
jhickey@cchs165.jacksn.k12.il.us

Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

CSSI Healthcare Update

The mentoring program continues to grow every semester and this semester has been no exception. Starting with only two students receiving mentoring in the Spring 05 semester and one in the Summer 05 semester, the program grew to 22 students in the Fall 2005 semester, and so far 37 students have received mentoring during the Spring 2006 semester. It is encouraging to see more students benefiting from this program.

The Individual Training Account funds are being obligated. Currently 33 students are receiving funds to assist them with their tuition & fees, mileage, daycare, and other supportive services through the CSSI grant.

In January a series of CSSI meetings began. The first meeting was with the Steering Committee. The committee met to begin discussions about planning for the second year of the grant and how to finish spending out this year's funds. The second year of the grant will require a 50% match on the funds received. In February the Directors of Nursing were brought together with the WIA providers to discuss how the projects are going at their school and any ideas they have for the second year of the grant. The next week another Steering Committee meeting was held to discuss the suggestions made by the Directors of Nursing and the WIA providers. As a result of the meeting several new ideas to spend this year's funds have been submitted to DCEO for approval. On March 22nd another Steering Committee meeting will be held. Lori Clark, DCEO's CSSI project coordinator, will be attending this meeting.

CSSI Manufacturing Grant

Southern Economic Development Region awarded \$240,000 grant under Critical Skill Shortages Initiative

In a press release issued January 31, 2006, Governor Blagojevich announced the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR) will receive \$240,000 in Opportunity Returns funding to help meet projected workforce shortages in Southern Illinois. The grant, awarded under the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI), will support delivery of the Work Certified program, a short-term training and credentialing program designed to provide employers with a pipeline of skilled workers. "When it comes to economic development, the most important investment we can make is in our workforce", the Governor stated in the release. "Opportunity Returns is about tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses. It is about upgrading the skills of the local workforce, increasing the access to capital, opening new markets, improving infrastructure, and creating and retaining jobs. Opportunity Returns is about successfully partnering with companies and communities, both large and small, to help all of Illinois reach its economic potential."

CSSI joined the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board and the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board to form the 19-county Southern Economic Development Region. The counties in this region include: Alexander, Pulaski, Massac, Union, Johnson,

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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. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

Some of our Chief Local Elected Officials, SIWIB members, staff and I attended the National Association of Workforce Board's Annual Conference in Washington, DC last month. The LWIB Chairs Leadership Association in partnership with the Illinois Workforce Partnership hosted a legislative breakfast in the Cannon Building on Capital Hill to allow us to meet with our Illinois congressional delegation. We met to encourage our legislators to maintain local control for the WIA programs as they consider the Re-Authorization of the Workforce Investment Act. "If it isn't broken, don't fix it," was our message. The Budget Appropriations is a major concern this year. Illinois stands to lose \$37 million or more in funding if the budget is passed as is. We must take action or face a fifth and very destructive reduction in funding.

I implore each of you to take a moment and email or telephone your congressman and Senators Durbin and Obama to express our need to restore funding to our WIA budget. Time is of the essence. Congress is expected to

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development

The Board Development Committee met last month and approved holding two training sessions for the Board with the first concurrent sessions starting at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th prior to the SIWIB meeting. A second round of sessions will start at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The SIWIB meeting is scheduled to convene at 7:00 p.m. The sessions and the meeting will be hosted at the One-Stop Center in Marion. The committee also discussed the agenda items for both the meeting and training sessions. Other items discussed were the location of the Annual (June) Meeting (at the Herrin Bocce Ball Courts); the possible recruitment of new SIWIB members; the SIWIB attendance policy as it applies to the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) conference; and the need to secure committee participation on a realistic basis. The committee reviewed member attendance and agreed the SIWIB is best

served if members limit their participation to one or two committees. Committees are unable to make quorums because scheduling conflicts often prohibit members from participating in committee meetings.

Youth Council

The Youth Council held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on February 8, 2006 at the Youth Detention Center in Benton. Council members received a tour of the facility by Steven Buntin.

Members reviewed reports listing the number of youth served in January by each contractor, activities they participated in, and new enrollments and exits during the program year.

Since Common Measures will become effective July 1, 2006 an RFP Committee had been appointed to look at what changes they recommend in RFPs to meet both the Common Measures and WIA measures.

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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Pope, Hardin, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Jefferson, Wayne, Edwards, and Wabash. The workforce boards partnered with leaders from business and industry, economic development, education, labor, and workforce development to craft a local plan. Through the CSSI grant, Work Certified will be delivered through a partnership of employers, the six community colleges in the SEDR, and the One-Stop Centers located throughout the region.

The Work Certified program addresses skills training in math, reading, writing, computer usage, basic business understanding, and general business 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. Participants will prepare professional resumes and cover letters and learn effective interviewing skills in order to promote their talents, skills, and abilities.

Enrollment is underway for Work Certified classes. Interested participants may inquire at any of the following WIA service providers: Wabash Area Development, Inc. in Enfield, Shawnee Development Council, Inc. in Karnak, Mid-5 Employment & Training in Harrisburg, and Man-Tra-Con, Corp. in Marion. For additional information about CSSI or Work Certified, please contact Lucinda Pearce at Man-Tra-Con, Corp. at 618/998-0970, Ext. 226, or lucindapearce@mantracon.org.

www.mantracon.org

It's been a slow train comin', but the Man-Tra-Con website is ready to leave

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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the station. The new and improved version of ManTraCon.org provides the general public with nearly all the information they will ever need to know about us. The sections of the website include:

Services to Job Seekers. This section highlights the services available to the job seeker, from staff-assisted core services such as resume creation, to the issuance of Individual Training Accounts. Also covered are the eligibility requirements necessary for job seekers to meet for all the different levels of service that we provide.

Services to Business. All the services that we provide businesses are listed, from job posting services to On-the-Job Training. Also discussed is our membership in the Business Service Team.

Youth Council. There's a great description of the services we provide to our area's youth, as well as a link to the description and membership of our Youth Council.

Special Projects. The Critical Skills Shortage, the Community Audit and the Illinois workNet pilot project are all outlined in this section.

In addition to the major sections listed above, a welcome from and brief bio of our Executive Director is available, as are descriptions of our Corporate Board, maps of and contact information for all of our offices, an employee directory and a list of job opportunities in our area. And soon to come, we intend to provide a complete legislative directory that will allow our online visitors to search for elected state and federal officials by name, local WIA or county!

We welcome you to explore the site — it was developed entirely in house by Man-Tra-Con staff and we are very proud of it. Any comments you have are always encouraged and welcome. ■

Spotlight On...

GERALD ALLEN

On February 17, 2006, Gerald Allen, SIWIB research assistant, was awarded a Certificate of Installation as President-Elect of the Lambda Chapter of Omicron Tau Theta, the graduate honor society in Workforce Education and Development at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, from retiring OTT President, John Legier.

Omicron Tau Theta is a professional society in vocational education seeking to promote leadership, research, and service in the field and to promote a close professional relationship among educational institutions, government, business and industry, and members of the society.

Gerald was tapped for membership in the honor society after completing his first semester of doctoral study, and has been supportive of the society's initiatives, which include the volunteering of OTT members to assist in the One-Stop Resume Writing Workshops throughout LWIB 25. He is currently working on his dissertation, which examines the correlation between school reform efforts and subsequent regional economic development, and hopes to complete his Ph.D. program in December, 2007.

Gerald has served as SIWIB Research Assistant since July, 2004, and is presently engaged in a project to develop training materials that will help in the recruitment and orientation of LWIB members throughout Illinois as part of an initiative sponsored by the Private Sector Leadership Task Force of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board. ■



Gerald Allen, left, accepts Certificate of Installation from retiring OTT President John Legier

Youth Council

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The RFP committee recommended:

- 9 month contract period, beginning on September 1, 2006 and ending on June 30, 2007, to get the contracts on the same calendar year as WIA;
- separate RFP's for education services and employment services;
- make a separate summer program with an RFP issued later in the year;
- contracts from 100% cost reimbursement to 70% cost reimbursement and 30% performance based;
- a separate line item for follow up;
- Man-Tra-Con career specialists working with contractors' case managers as a team.

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**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B
Marion, IL 62959

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- **Spotlight On... Gerald Allen**

★ **Be sure to attend the SIWIB board meeting on Thursday, March 30th** ★

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

Youth Council

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At the March 8, 2006 Youth Council meeting the only feedback reported on the RFP's Committee's recommendations was to include High School Juniors in the 2007 Summer Program. It was agreed that the RFP committee will have new RFP's ready for the Youth Council's review at the April 5, 2006 meeting.

In other business, the Council received an update regarding a change in location for the April 25 Youth Conference from Rend Lake Conference Center to Rend Lake College. Youth Council decided to have contractors give the youth the surveys with instructions to complete and return them, due to poor mail back response. ■

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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act on the budget appropriations by March 8th. Without your help we could lose the entire WIA workforce development system as we know it.

Despite the cold weather, over 400 Workforce Boards across the nation sent representatives to the conference. There were many informative workshops, discussion groups and exhibitions. I encourage any member who can attend the conference next year to do so. The NAWB will hold its' 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, DC February 24 - 27, 2007. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 21, 2006

One-Stop Committee Meeting

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

MARCH 30, 2006

SIWIB Training

from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Dinner

from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

SIWIB Board Meeting

at 6:30 p.m.