



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 2: ISSUE 7: DECEMBER 2006

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Community-Based Job Training Grant

e³Solutions to Critical Nursing Shortages in Southern Illinois

To combat the growing shortage of nurses in southern Illinois, the One-Stop Business and Employment Center working in conjunction with the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board partnered with Connect SI, local health-care providers, community colleges, K-12 education, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and McKendree College to create a plan to significantly increase the entire pipeline of nurse training in southern Illinois. The \$1,983,282 plan submitted by the One-Stop Business and Employment Center for the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's Community-Based Job Training Grant will allow for the immediate expansion of nurse training at all levels in southern Illinois. These dedicated partners have committed to provide a minimum of \$270,500 in resources over the three-year grant period to ensure the success of these projects.

e³Solutions to Critical Nursing Shortages in Southern Illinois, if funded, will address shortages of Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Master of Science in Nursing educators. The plan will address the nursing shortage in several ways. Project plans include: the development of stronger health-care career awareness opportunities at all levels of the K-12 system including local CNA labs for high school use; increased training capacity within the community colleges; and regionally

offered advanced degree nursing programs utilizing both traditional and hybrid methods of instruction.

Our federal representatives were sent letters asking for their support, and they have responded. U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama, along with U.S. Congressmen Jerry Costello and John Shimkus, are supporting our application to the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor plans to announce the Community-Based Job Training Grant awards sometime in late Fall.

Reverse Trade Mission

Southern Illinois' first ever reverse trade mission took place on November 1st and 2nd. The aim of the two-day mission was to connect southern Illinois to the global economy, attracting new investments, companies and jobs to the area, while opening up new markets abroad. A delegation of Chicago-based foreign trade commissioners representing 16 countries spent two days touring Jackson, Jefferson, Saline, and Williamson county-area interests and industries.

"Take a good look at our area," Glenn Poshard, SIU president, said at a luncheon dedicated to the commissioners' honor at JALC. "I hope you get the opportunity to travel throughout southern Illinois. Nowhere in the Midwest can match our lakes, national forests, the splendor of our fall colors, and our quality of life. We love southern Illinois and we want you to love it, too."

"Southern Illinois has been a well-kept secret — perhaps too well-kept. The purpose

(Continued on page 2)

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Crystal Lukens who has resigned from the SIWIB. Crystal was our Older Worker Program representative on the board and has worked many years in that capacity — first with Green Thumb and then with Easter Seals of Western Kentucky. Crystal has always been an active member of the SIWIB. While I will miss her leadership and expertise, I wish her health and happiness in her new endeavors.

I wish to welcome Dr. Mary Sullivan to the board. Mary is the assistant executive director of the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market in Herrin. She will soon be replacing Dr. Jack Hill as the executive director when Jack retires yet again. Mary is our new Older Worker Program representative. I look forward to working with Dr. Sullivan and ask you to welcome her to the board. She is featured in this issue in the “Spot Light On ...” section.

Please mark your calendars for the Thursday, December 14th SIWIB

(Continued on page 4)

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, November 13th in the new Family Opportunity Center in Du Quoin. The committee discussed the December 14th SIWIB meeting. They secured the location for the meeting, planned the menu, approved an agenda for the meeting, approved the invitations and finalized the invitation list. The committee also decided to host a reception and start the reception at 5:30 pm. The committee also discussed the NAWB conference in Washington, DC and instructed Mr. Hopkins to send out an invitation to both the NAWB and the NAWDP (in Reno/Sparks, NV) conferences at the same time in order to allow members to plan their schedules with both conferences in mind. The committee discussed the need to seek a replacement for an existing member

who plans to resign at the end of the year. Director Lively discussed the need to seek two graduate assistants to work with the SIWIB. She suggested these positions be one year assistantships in the future. The committee members were given a tour of the new Family Opportunity Center in Du Quoin at the conclusion of their meeting.

Business & Economic Development Committee

At the October 19, 2006 meeting John Hammack was nominated for vice chair of the Business and Economic Development Committee.

Mary Ellen Bechtel and Kathy Lively, along with Man-Tra-Con staff members Steve Mitchell and Rosie Robinson, have participated in the Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference planning for the past few years. With the

(Continued on page 3)

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

of the mission is to show the world what southern Illinois has to offer. This is the most beautiful part of the state and, I believe, it is on the cusp of great economic success,” commented Jack Lavin, director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which also sponsored the trade mission.

K. Sukomaran, director of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, was one of 20 foreign trade commissioners who flew into the region for the mission. “We talk to U.S. businesses about doing business with Malaysia, as well as look at opportunities for Malaysian companies to expand or locate operations outside of Malaysia,” he said.

The commissioners toured several local industries including AISIN and DBT America in Carrier Mills. They also visited the campus of SIU to learn about the

technical and scientific research being conducted in clean coal technology and other renewable fuels.

The first day of the mission concluded with a dinner at Southeastern Illinois College. The second day included a breakfast at the One-Stop Business and Employment Center in Marion hosted by SIWIB and Man-Tra-Con Corporation. Speakers at the breakfast were Kathy Lively, executive director of MTC; Dr. Mary Sullivan, assistant executive director of SICCM; and Bob Campbell, director of REDCO. Other events included stops at Bombardier Recreational Products in Benton, Continental Tire in Mt. Vernon and a luncheon at Rend Lake College.

H.O.P.E. “BOO”CCE Tournament

The 2nd Annual H.O.P.E. “BOO”CCE

(Continued on page 4)

Business & Economic Development Committee

(Continued from page 2)

retirement of Norma Turok from U of I and the staffing changes at SIU, the future of the conference was being questioned. The committee agreed that this event is a good and valuable opportunity to showcase what the board hopes to contribute to our community, and decided to continue participation in the planning of this event. In past years, DCEO technical assistance dollars have paid for national speakers to address workforce-related topics and the alignment with economic development at this event.

Funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 will be allocated for the new incumbent worker training program. Plan revisions and policy will need to be made. Discussions were held about the marketing of this new program. This committee will be the entity responsible for screening and approval of applications. Limitations must be made for large versus small businesses and funding.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Monday, November 13th at the New Du Quoin Family Opportunity Center. They discussed the planned modifications of the Local Workforce Investment for LWIA #25. The committee was informed that the plan has been advertised as being available for public review and comment as required by law. The plan is being modified to incorporate the reallocated funds of program year 2005 and the revised program year 2006 formula funds totaling \$824,275 for Adult programs and \$922,272 for Youth programs and the planned number of participants to be served during the 2006 program year. The committee approved the plan modifications as presented and will seek ratification of the plan modifications at the December SIWIB meeting. Director Lively also informed the committee of current WIA activities. The membership was also given a tour of the new Family Opportunity Center in Du Quoin.

One-Stop Committee

It's that time again! The negotiations to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been ongoing during the last

Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER DR. MARY SULLIVAN

Dr. Mary Sullivan is a partner representative on the SIWIB board representing the Older Worker Program. Mary began her career with the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) consortium in 1988 as the program director of the Health Information Technology (HIT) Program. In July of 2006, Mary was promoted to assistant executive director of SICCM and will assume the executive director's duties at the end of this year when her predecessor, Dr. Jack Hill, retires. Prior to this, she worked for seven years with the Veterans Administration healthcare system.



Dr. Mary Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan obtained her doctoral as well as master's degrees from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in Workforce Education and Development/Vocational Education. Her bachelor's degree was obtained from Illinois State University-Normal with a major in Medical Record Administration and a minor in Applied Computer Science.

She has two daughters and one son, ages 14, 18 and 19. Her oldest daughter is majoring in chemistry at JALC. Her husband works in food service at the Veteran's Administration Hospital. She has been a Boy Scout leader for 11 years and has spent 6 years as a Girl Scout leader. Mary loves to travel. Last summer she spent six exciting weeks backpacking in Europe with her daughters.

Dr. Sullivan's professional memberships include the American Health Information Management Association, Illinois Health Information Management Association and Southern Illinois Health Information Management Association. ■

One-Stop Committee

(Continued from left)

two months. An agreement has been reached between the partners and changes are being made.

With cuts in funding and staffing by state agencies, it continues to be a problem to staff and support the centers. The partners have agreed on a new process for sharing the cost of staffing the resource centers which will provide services to the customers in a more consistent manner in each one of the Comprehensive Centers. This new process will also allow us to better utilize the G*Stars system, and provide more accurate tracking and reporting to the board about the customers and the services they receive.

The One-Stop Committee will meet on November 28, 2006 to approve the changes before the final agreement is submitted to the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board for approval at the December board meeting.

(Continued on page 4)



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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INSIDE:

- Message from Our Chairman
- Community-based Job Training Grant
- Committee Reports
- Spotlight On... Dr. Mary Sullivan

★ **SIWIB Board Meeting, Thursday, December 14, 2006, 5:30 p.m. at the Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center in the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park** ★

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

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Youth Council Report (Continued from page 3)

The Youth Council met November 8, 2006 and focused on obligating youth funds that need to be used by June 30, 2007. An ad hoc committee had been appointed at the October meeting and asked to make suggestions on the best way to allocate the funds. The committee suggested two RFP's be issued now, for education and employment services for youth no longer served by a provider, and another issued in January for a Summer Program in June of 2007. The Council voted to accept the committee's suggestions and designated any funds remaining be used for youth ITA's and supportive services. New contracts awarded for education and employment services will begin January 1, 2007 and all contracts are scheduled to end on June 30, 2007. ■

Message from Our Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

meeting at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center in the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. I hope to see all of you then. The Board will host a reception starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will convene at 7:00 pm. **Please RSVP to Bob Hopkins no later than Monday, December 4, 2006.**

Lastly, I do want to wish each and every one of you a very special HOLIDAY GREETING and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! THANK YOU for all the work you do on behalf of the Board! ■

H.O.P.E. "BOO" CCE Tournament

(Continued from page 2)

Tournament was held on October 29 at the Herrinfesta Bocce Courts. Over \$3000 was raised for the Man-Tra-Con H.O.P.E. and Holiday Hope funds during this fun and exciting event. The funds are used to assist clients with emergency assistance and to purchase holiday gifts for the children of families in crisis. Sixteen teams competed in the tournament. The Bad Habits took first place, with Southern Pride in second place. General Dynamics and FWHS tied for third place.

The Operation Game from Herrin Hospital won the Costume Contest for Best Team Theme with The Mystery Machine, also from Herrin Hospital, taking second place. The 3rd Annual HOPE "BOO" CCE tournament is scheduled for October 28, 2007. ■