



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 3: APRIL 2007

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WIRED Grant (Third Generation) Application

by Lianbin Cui and Tony Petersen, *SIU-C Research Assistants, Man-Tra-Con Corp.*

The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative is a \$5-million competitive grant to be awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The purpose of this initiative/grant is to further support regions that are seeking to transform their economies and enhance their global competitiveness through talent development, transformation of infrastructure, and economic development, and to expand employment and advancement opportunities for workers while simultaneously catalyzing the creation of high-skill, high-wage jobs.

Governor Blagojevich has selected southern Illinois as one of the two multi-county regions to submit an application proposal. The WIRED Initiative will be led by Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. The administrative entity, Management Training and Consulting Corporation, for the SIWIB will administer all WIRED SI strategies. If the WIRED grant is received, SIUC and the SIWIB will leverage the \$1.7 million Connect SI strategy by focusing on the healthcare sector which forms the backbone of the region's economic potential.

Using the healthcare sector as the platform for a major cultural shift, the WIRED SI initiative offers a huge potential for economic opportunity across a variety of industry sectors. A strong healthcare backbone in the 20-southernmost counties will lead to spin-off opportunities in other economic sectors including developing alternative energy focused on cleaner coal,

coal gasification, ethanol and bio-diesel; opportunities in the logistics cluster that exist at the intersection of the transportation, warehousing and wholesaling industries; exploiting the region's potential for knowledge-based enterprises including spin-off opportunities from healthcare in the life sciences, biotechnology, medical device, medical support services, telemedicine, nanotechnology and nutraceuticals.

This grant application is well underway. A WIRED writing team was established and has been compiling information and materials necessary for the application. Southern Illinois University Carbondale and members of Man-Tra-Con Corporation, as well as local business leaders and educational leaders in southern Illinois have been meeting on a regular basis to ensure the 20 counties are represented as one unified region for successful proposal submission.

Proposed strategies for this initiative are:

- **Southern Illinois Innovation Mapping and Peer-to-Peer Network Development**
Identify innovative activities and strategically align with resources, research, and tech transfer opportunities to accelerate growth.
- **Southern Illinois Youth Engagement and Adult Leadership Academy**
Build on the concepts of entrepreneurship education and leadership development to create a pipeline of up-and-coming youth

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. John Washburn for his informative presentation on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization which he made prior to our last SIWIB meeting. GREAT JOB, John!

Congress is taking their first steps toward WIA Reauthorization with the Senate's passing of their Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution. The House is expected to pass their Budget Resolution soon. They expected the Budget Committee to conference during Easter recess to iron out a bill. The Senate and House Budget Resolutions are only \$1 billion apart on Function 500 funds (for education, training and social service programs). WIA would see an increase in funding if the budget were to pass largely as is. The White House has all but declared the bill "dead on arrival" if not substantially changed.

Please watch your mail for your Economic Interest Statement from Williamson County Clerk Sandra Jent. The statement is required by the Governmental Ethics Act. Please complete and return the form to Ms. Jent as soon as possible. Your kind assistance is greatly appreciated.

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee met on March 20, 2007 and was treated with a special presentation by Gabriela Moroney on the Real Benefits program. Since a goal of the Transition Team is to have a centralized resource/referral system, Real Benefits may be a potential avenue to assess eligibility and increase participation for public benefit programs. Zina Nolen and Phil Minnis were both pleased to announce receipt of three individual achievement award nominations. The One-Stop Committee will select one of these nominees for recognition at the next quarterly board meeting; Michelle Cerutti will assist in marketing the nominations process. One-Stop Center reports indicate numbers continue to increase at the centers; additional workshops and training sessions have been scheduled to accommodate our customers. Kathy Lively announced plans to relocate from Murphysboro to Carbondale. The Old National Bank building will provide a space with roominess, parking, and a strategic location served by the public transportation system. The Transitions Team efforts continue for our dislocated workers with the silver ribbon campaign,

silver bow placement, and a request for a regional day of prayer on April 15, 2007. An extremely successful College Opportunity Fair was held on March 17, 2007 at the Pinckneyville High School. An Employment Opportunity Fair is scheduled for May 15, 2007 at the DuQuoin Fairgrounds. Zina Nolen announced that all signatures have been obtained for the MOU and copies will be distributed at the next meeting scheduled for April 24, 2007.

Youth Council

The Youth Council released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2007 Summer Program on February 14, 2007. Proposals were due on March 12, 2007. One proposal was received and reviewed at the March Youth Council meeting. The proposal did not meet the required criteria in the RFP and the Council voted not to recommend funding to the SIWIB. The Council discussed different ways to provide summer services for the WIA youth and asked ManTraCon to bring ideas to the April 11, 2007 meeting. Funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been allocated to the summer program.

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Wired Grant

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that can be nurtured and mentored to assume leadership positions in southern Illinois.

- **Operation Bootstrap: Business Training and Start-up**
Develop a mechanism for displaced workers and underemployed individuals to launch and successfully manage their own business with ongoing support of technical assistance providers.
- **Post-Secondary Entrepreneurship Curriculum**
Establish a certificate program in Entrepreneurship at the community college level, and introduce a minor in

Entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level at SIUC.

- **Lean Enterprise Initiative**
Introduce knowledge-based businesses to lean enterprise processes that will make them more competitive in a global marketplace.
- **Rural Business Incubation Ecosystem**
Establish additional small business incubators and network existing incubators to provide resources to accelerate company growth, targeted to scalable, high-potential enterprises.
- **Healthcare Career Academies**
Establish career academies in four southern Illinois school districts, one

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Wired Grant

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in each of the Connect SI "communities of interest." A career academy is operated by a small team of teachers from various disciplines focusing instruction on the health care cluster.

■ Center for Healthcare Excellence

Establish a Center for Healthcare Excellence in the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) that focuses attention on collaborative public/private sector partnerships associated with the southern Illinois healthcare workforce.

■ Technology-Based Bridge Program

Implement a globally-recognized certification program that provides the opportunity for at-risk youth, unemployed, and underemployed adults to obtain the knowledge of fundamental computer concepts and core computer skills applicable to a variety of healthcare and other occupational specialties.

■ BSN/MSN Educational Program Delivery

Expand the enrollment capacity in baccalaureate and masters degree programs for Nursing in the southern Illinois region by creating accelerated nursing programs that focus on helping nurses work toward these degrees.

■ Southern Illinois Healthcare Branding

Establish a marketing campaign to address awareness and career exploration activity for the residents of southern Illinois.

■ Tele-health Network for Continuing Education

Partner with the existing SIU Tele-health Network and programs to expand local healthcare continuing education capacity.

■ RHIO Feasibility Study

Conduct a feasibility study with health providers in the 20-county region to examine implications of establishing a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO).

■ Lean Health Care Initiative

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Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER TYLER YOUNG

Mr. Tyler Young Jr. serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Although he also currently serves as chairperson of the Youth Council of the SIWIB, he has previously held numerous positions on the SIWIB and served on several of its ad hoc committees.

Mr. Young has held the position of executive director for the Jackson County Housing Authority since 1994. As the executive director he oversees the operation of 826 public housing units and 557 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Under Mr. Young's direction, the Jackson County Housing Authority has achieved a rating of "high performer" under the Public Housing Assessment Program. Tyler served as president of the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities (IAHA) for four years and received the David W. Morgan Memorial Award — the most prestigious award given by the IAHA, in recognition of his professionalism and achievements.



Tyler Young

Mr. Young served four years in the United States Air Force. Sgt. Young worked on inter-continental ballistic missiles as a missile electrician. Upon his honorable discharge from service, he attended Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and graduated with both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Political Science. He also completed all course work for a Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Administration.

Tyler is actively involved with the community and serves as a member of numerous organizations. He is an executive board member for the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities. He is chairman of the Attucks Community Service Board, an advisory board member for the Southern Illinois University School of Social Work, member of Board of Directors for Southern Illinois Investment Company, and past vice-chairperson of the Abundant Health Resource Organization.

Tyler and wife Beverly Hardnett-Young now call Murphysboro home where they reside with their son, Stephen. ■

Youth Council Report

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The Council also discussed what should be included in the RFPs for the program year beginning July 1, 2007. They decided to change the name from the "WIA Year-Round Youth Program" to "Youth Empowerment Service" or "YES" and also voted to leave contracts 70% cost reimbursement and 30% performance based/cost reimbursement. They also agreed to keep RFP's for education and employment services separate — but change the requested employment services from those provided at the contractor's location to employment services provided in ManTraCon's Resource Rooms. The RFPs were released March 28, 2007 and will be due on April 30, 2007. ■



**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.*

Wired Grant

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Introduce rural hospitals to lean enterprise processes that will make them more productive and efficient in an ever-increasing competitive environment.

Through these strategies the WIRED Initiative will serve as the catalyst that southern Illinois needs to transform the region into a globally competitive marketplace, transform the infrastructure to encourage knowledge-based enterprises to develop in the region, and encourage investment of economic resources in the region. ■

Message from Our Chairman

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The Board is in the process of undergoing its re-certification by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). You should have already received a copy of your Appointment/Reappointment Form from Secretary Hopkins. Please review the form, make any corrections, sign and return the form to his attention in a timely fashion. The Board undergoes re-certification every two years as required by law.

The Executive Committee will meet later this month to review the WIRED Grant (featured on page 1). Should you have any comments or concerns, please let me or Director Lively know. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 24, 2007

Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 noon at the
Marion One-Stop Business
& Employment Center

APRIL 24, 2007

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

JUNE 21, 2007

SIWIB Board Meeting
5:00 P.M. at the
Herrinfesta Bocce Courts
West Walnut Street
Herrin, Illinois