



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 5: JULY 2007

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Visit our web site at
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Award Nominees Receive Certificates of Acknowledgement

At the annual SIWIB meeting on June 21, 2007 at the Herrin Civic Center, Chairman Armstrong presented four certificates to the following worthy nominees.

The Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award recognizes the accomplishments of WIA job seeking customers who have overcome significant obstacles in achieving their personal career goals. Two of our Maytag/Whirlpool dislocated workers were nominated for this prestigious award.

Amber Jarvis has overcome many obstacles that have threatened to interfere with her plans of completing a Bachelors Degree in Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Administration of Justice program. Even in the face of diversity, Amber's dedication was evidenced by perfect attendance in class and an excellent grade point average. She even found time to complete sixty hours of volunteer work at Man-Tra-Con assisting other former Maytag employees.

Sixty-one year old Jerry Mezo finally admitted that he was functionally illiterate after the announcement of the December 2006 plant closure. It was painfully clear that he would need to learn to read in order to obtain a GED to assist in job search. With the help of Man-Tra-Con, John A. Logan's

Adult Education Program, Herrin Public Library's Literacy Outreach, and volunteer tutors, Jerry is now reading books, menus, street signs, and directions. Jerry's accomplishments have been an inspiration and a source of pride for himself, his family, and his teachers.

The Innovative Solutions Award recognizes innovative workforce/economic development programs, projects, and/or initiatives that have resulted in the economic growth of a community or region. The Williamson County Regional Airport, and its Chicago air service, was nominated for this award. In February 2007, the airport started passenger air service to Chicago and now provides a quick and convenient alternative to area residents whether for leisure, tourism, or to explore business development. Successful implementation of this initiative resulted in multiple partnership formation within the community and region. State Senator Gary Forby, State Representative John Bradley, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Division of Aeronautics, Decatur Airport, Quincy Airport, REDCO, local chambers, community leaders, and lastly MESA Airlines all came together to help capture the roundtrip air service from southern Illinois to Chicago. *(Continued on page 3)*

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to offer a big “Thank You” to Board members John Alongi, June Hickey, Kathy Lively, Milton Maxwell, Richard Morris, John Rednour, and Jack Struck for taking time out of their busy schedules to join me at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals’ (NAWDP) Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to network with other workforce professionals from across the country, and to increase our knowledge about WIA policies, programs, and services. There were numerous workshops and seminars, as well as informative keynote speakers. This was truly an excellent learning opportunity. Start planning now for next year’s conference to be held in Virginia Beach on May 18th through May 21st, 2008.

I’d like to recognize our local award nominees for this quarter. The Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award nominees are Jerry Mezo and Amber Jarvis, the Business Leadership Award nominee is Continental Tire of North America, Inc., and the Innovative Solutions Award nominee is Williamson County Regional Airport.

At the June 21, 2007 Annual meeting, the Board approved the creation of a new WIA Policy and

(Continued on page 4)

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee Meeting was held at the Marion Man-Tra-Con office on June 5, 2007. Traffic reports, customer satisfaction surveys, and utilization reports were distributed to the attendees. Cindy Webb, Scott Cohoon, and Pat Drake gave a brief overview of their respective One-Stop Center locations. The influx of migrant seasonal workers into the system is a direct result of crop destruction earlier in the spring.

A summary of events focusing on the dislocated Maytag and Technicolor Universal Media Services workers was provided. A successful Employment Opportunity Fair was held on May 15, 2007 with 445 job seekers in attendance. Job Clubs, College Prep Days, and informational healthcare workshops have served many of those faced with recent job loss. A picnic for former

TUMS workers and their families was held on Saturday, June 16, 2007 at the DuQuoin Fairgrounds Ash Grove Pavilion with more than 100 in attendance for hot dogs, fun, and games!

Julio Rodriguez with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity joined the meeting via conference call to explain the One-Stop rebranding campaign. He recognizes the challenges of integrating the One-Stop logo with the Illinois workNet logo and with other partnering agencies. Copies of potential new logo designs were distributed; the committee will discuss specific revisions at a later date. The committee selected award nominees recognized at the Annual SIWIB meeting on June 21, 2007 that included Business Leadership, Innovative Solutions, and two Ruth Snider Individual Achievement categories. Zina Nolen

(Continued on page 3)

SIWIB AWARD WINNERS



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Career Specialist Summer Southard and Award Nominee Amber Jarvis, Award Nominee Jerry Mezo and Career Specialist Robin Yucus, and representatives from Continental Tire of North America, Inc., and Williamson County Regional Airport.



PHOTOS BY THERESA SMITH

One-Stop Committee

(Continued from page 2)

reported on construction and refurbishing efforts at many of the locations. The next meeting date has yet to be determined.

Youth Council

The Youth Council made a recommendation to the SIWIB and received approval to fund all proposals received in response to Requests for Proposal for education and employment services beginning July 1, 2007.

Contracts for employment services will be issued to MERS/Goodwill for \$71,782.11 and Hamilton Jefferson Counties' Regional Office of Education for \$40,000.00.

Education contracts will be given to Carbondale Community High School Rebound for \$65,677.50, Project ECHO for \$72,800.00, Hamilton Jefferson Counties' Regional Office of Education for \$36,132.00 and United Methodist Children's Home YouthBuild for \$26,182.92.

Since there were no employment proposals received for Franklin, Perry, and Williamson Counties, or education proposals for Perry County, youth from those counties will receive services or referral to services, case management and supportive services from Man-Tra-Con staff.

Contracts for Program Year 2007 will again be 70% cost reimbursement and 30% cost reimbursement/performance based on Common Measures for Performance guidelines. The Youth Council required contractors to meet Common Measures last year to familiarize and prepare them for WIA Reauthorization. The State recently received a waiver stating Common Measures for WIA youth would begin for Program Year 2008, meaning all youth exited from WIA after September 30, 2008 will be counted in the new measures. ■

Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER JOHN ALONGI

SIU Honors the John Alongi Family

More than 120 friends of the Alongi family recently gathered for a reception hosted by the SIU Alumni Association and the Perry County Alumni Chapter to honor Betty and John Alongi Sr. in appreciation of their lifelong service to Southern Illinois University. One of the family's passions has been the establishment of the Alongi Legacy Scholarship, endowed during the past decade through a golf tournament bearing their name.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SIU President Dr. Glenn Poshard, Jo Poshard, John Alongi, Betty Alongi, SIU Alumni Association President-Elect Doris Rottschalk, Jan Buerger, and SIU Alumni Association Executive Director Ed Buerger.

The reception, held at the University's Stone Center, featured comments from SIU Alumni Association President-Elect Doris Rottschalk and SIU President Dr. Glenn Poshard. The Alongi family's partnership with the SIU Alumni Association and the success of the tournament has enabled them to award one scholarship each year to a Perry County High School graduate who will attend the University in the fall.

Rottschalk, a retired Du Quoin educator who has known the Alongis for many years, says the tribute was well deserved. "John and Betty Alongi demonstrated the value of the superb education a student receives at Southern by sending their three children here," she says. "They are an example of what one family can do to help with recruitment and we thank them for that." ■

Award Nominees Receive Acknowledgement

(Continued from page 1)

The Business Leadership Award recognizes a private sector company that has demonstrated leadership and made significant contributions to workforce/economic development opportunities. Continental Tire of North America, Inc. is located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The company has served as a leader in the

(Continued on page 4)



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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INSIDE:

- **Message from Our Chairman**
- **Award Nominees Honored at SIWIB Annual Meeting**
- **Committee Reports**
- **Spotlight On...
Board Member John Alongi**

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

Award Nominees Receive Acknowledgement

(Continued from page 3)

establishment and improvement of workforce activities for many years, and truly demonstrates continued cooperation with the Local Workforce Area. Through committed efforts and joint partnerships, many dislocated workers have been able to secure self-sufficient employment with benefits and potential for advancement. Continental Tire has utilized the OJT program, hired more than a dozen dislocated workers in the past three months, and has willingly participated in local job fairs in hopes of offering meaningful employment to job seekers. ■

Message from Our Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

Planning Committee and reorganized some committee functions. I am recruiting volunteers to serve on this new and very important committee with Ms. Michele Rheinecker serving as Chairperson. Please contact me, Michele, or Bob Hopkins if you wish to serve on the WIA Policy and Planning Committee. The Marketing Committee has been disbanded and the One-Stop Committee will absorb its duties.

It is time to submit your Travel Expense Forms for the quarter ending June 30th. If you do not have a form or need assistance, please contact Bob Hopkins.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) continues its re-certification of the Board. The Board undergoes re-certification every two years as required by law. Thanks to each of you for completing the necessary form; your assistance was greatly appreciated. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Have a
Happy and
Safe July 4th
Celebration!*

