



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 7: SEPTEMBER 2007

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Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

Connect SI Energy Symposia Series

Connect SI, in partnership with SIUC's Coal Research Center, will sponsor a public conversation on the topic of coal gasification and how that technology offers hope for the economy of southern Illinois on **Tuesday, September 18, 2007**. This will be a layperson's conversation — not too technical — and will provide a deeper understanding of how coal gasification works and what the challenges are to bringing this technology to our region. There is no cost, but your advance registration is required. I hope you will be able to attend and learn more about the promise of coal gasification. Registration for the meeting and refreshments begin at 5:30 p.m. with the formal presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the John A. Logan College Conference Center.

The Promise of Coal Gasification is the first in a series of energy symposia that will be offered over the coming months. In the collaborative spirit of Connect SI and working with the highly regarded folks at the Coal Research Center, we should all be able to learn more about our many energy assets in the region and how

we might work together to realize the promise of these assets.

You may register by contacting Tammy Kirk at tammykirk@mantracon.org, or at (618) 998-0970, extension 215.

Regional Innovation Grant

The Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board's \$250,000 application for a Regional Innovation Grant (RIG) has been approved by the Department of Labor. RIGs are limited National Emergency Grant (NEG) resources to assist local WIBs who actively collaborate with a wide array of strategic partners to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and strategic regional plan for talent development. The plan is designed to support the recovery and growth of the regional economy and provide prosperity for the regions' workers. The activities from this grant, using the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) conceptual framework, will result in a strategic and

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Regional Innovation Grant

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transformative plan that, when implemented, will prepare workers and businesses to compete and succeed in the global economy. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

One-Stop Committee

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

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

WIA Policy & Planning Meeting

3:30 p.m. at the
WIA Office/JALC Extension
DuQuoin, Illinois

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

SIWIB Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. at the
Southern Illinois Center Lobby
DuQuoin Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2007

Illinois Enterprise Zone Association Annual Conference

Rend Lake Resort and
Conference Center
Whittington, Illinois

OCTOBER 25-26, 2007

Illinois Workforce Development Conference

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Springfield, Illinois

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development Committee

The Board Development Committee has drafted a tentative schedule of meetings for the Board and will present the schedule for the Board's approval at the September 20th SIWIB meeting. They set the September meeting for the Southern Illinois Center on the Du Quoin Fairgrounds. Department of Agriculture Director Charles "Chuck" Hartke and Fair Manager John Rednour Jr. have kindly offered the lobby of the Southern Illinois Center for our use at no charge. The Committee recommends the use of the Great Room at the Rend Lake Conference Center for the December 13th meeting. A Jefferson County location is being considered for the March 20th SIWIB meeting. The Herrin Bocce Courts has been suggested for the June 19th Annual Meeting of the Board.

The Committee recommends the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) annual conference in Washington, DC and the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) annual conference in Virginia Beach, VA for board member training. Chairman Maxwell reiterated the committee's intent to consider conference attendance based on individual member's participation and attendance at not only board meetings, but committee meetings as well.

WIA Policy and Planning Committee

The first meeting of the newly formed WIA Policy and Planning Committee was held on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, and chaired by Ms. Michele Rheinecker. After a fabulous "Bennie's" lunch, we discussed agenda items which included an orientation of

committee duties and responsibilities, and identification and prioritization of specific tasks. Members of this committee are charged with the oversight and development of WIA Title I policy in regards to establishing programs and services to assist employers in meeting their hiring needs. This committee shall develop and make recommendations to the full board and CLEOs for approval regarding such policy. Committee members were reminded most policy and procedures are in place; this committee is tasked with reviewing and making recommendations for change. Since all members were not in attendance, the vice chair will be elected at the next meeting.

Youth Council Report

The Youth Council met on August 8, 2007. Gina Wallace informed the Council that a waiver has been received from DOL allowing WIA Performance measures to be replaced with Common Measures in Program Year 2008. Since measures look at the months after youth are exited, PY 2008 measures will actually begin counting youth exited after October 1, 2007. The supportive service policy the Council had previously approved gave youth bonuses for retaining employment for 270 days and meeting the WIA Performance Measure Retention Rate. Common Measures Placement Rate only requires a youth to be placed in employment or post secondary school the first quarter after exit. After a discussion, the Council voted to change the days required for receiving the bonus from 270 to 90 days. They also voted to change the daily incentive given to youth, working or in college, to a straight dollar amount for attendance. This is a change from requiring them to document the four criteria high school/GED students must meet to earn the full incentive. ■