



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 3: ISSUE 9: NOVEMBER 2007

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Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

Economic Scenario Model Unveiled

VITAL Economy and Connect SI introduced VITAL Economy's Economic Scenario Model, the first regional rural economic model for calculating the gross domestic product (GDP) of rural counties or economic regions, on November 16 at Man-Tra-Con Corporation. Rob Beynon of InterVISTAS Consulting conducted an interactive seminar-style meeting where the attendees had a hands-on opportunity to learn how to use the model.

Economic Scenario Model includes benchmark and forecasting opportunities for each of the 20 counties of Connect SI, the four economic sub-regions of Connect SI, and for all of southern Illinois. Forecasting tools allow users to project the impact on jobs, earnings, output and GDP of changing a region's economic focus from traditional and mature industrial sectors to emerging knowledge-based sectors. It will also allow Connect SI leaders to compare and contrast the economic impact of competing or alternative economic strategies. A capital investment impact tool has also been included, enabling leaders to calculate the impact of capital investment projects on jobs, earnings,

GDP and output. Connect SI commissioned the development of this economic model because rural economic regions and many metropolitan areas have not had an effective way of measuring the performance of their local economy. The uniqueness and value of this economic model for Connect SI was evidenced by the U.S. Commerce Department's September 26, 2007 announcement of its first-ever experimental attempt to calculate gross domestic product for the 363 metropolitan areas of the U.S.

Southern Illinois is the first rural economic region in the U.S. to be able to measure and forecast economic performance by industry sector at the county level. Effectively used, Economic Scenario Model can be a significant competitive advantage for southern Illinois. Economic Scenario Model is designed to help southern Illinois leaders benchmark its current economic state and forecast the future impact of economic and community development strategies over five years.

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish to thank our Board members Vice Chair Mary Roe, Vice Chair John Alongi, Patricia Drake, Kathy Lively, Richard Morris, Jack Struck, and Alan Summers who took time from their hectic schedules to join me at this year's State Workforce Development Conference. I also wish to recognize our CLEO Chairman Wayne Bigham, who personally offered his congratulations to our many award recipients this year.

Funding, funding, what ever happened to our funding? You may have already heard that Congress had sent our WIA appropriations bill to the President. It contained the appropriations for Labor and HHS (WIA funding). This bill called for a \$245 million rescission in WIA funds. The good news is that this amount was down from the \$335 million rescission which was originally introduced. If standard

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

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Multi-Modal Transportation

The Delta Regional Authority is developing a multi-modal transportation strategic plan for the region it serves. When Congress created the DRA in 2000, one of the investment priorities listed for the authority was the transportation infrastructure of the 240 counties and parishes in the region. The DRA held a public forum at the Herrin City Hall on November 2 and a special meeting with local DRA partners on November 13 at JALC to hear the region's perspective, information and ideas on improving the multi-modal transportation system.

In February 2007, the authority released its plan for the Delta Development Highway System. The plan was developed following input from transportation executives and local organizations in the eight states served by the DRA. Public meetings were held throughout the region in the fall of 2006. The multi-modal strategic plan will build on the work already done by the authority with public meetings again being held in eight states.

"The Delta Development Highway System plan represented the culmination of thousands of hours of work by those of us at the authority and some of

the region's top transportation experts," says Pete Johnson, the DRA's federal co-chairman. "Now, we're putting in many hours of new work to complete the multimodal strategic plan."

The multi-modal plan will be presented to the president and Congress when it's completed. A section of the most recent national highway act mandated a study of multi-modal transportation assets and needs in the region. The DRA is required to consult with local and state governments and then develop a report that determines priorities, costs, benefits and expected outcomes, thus creating a comprehensive strategic plan for our region.

The multi-modal strategic plan must be presented to the administration and Congress by July. For more information about the DRA or multi-modal transportation, visit www.dra.gov.

Driving Transformation

Recently, Kathy Lively was asked by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to assemble a team composed of regional leaders critical in developing a vision of the workforce system of the future. DCEO then submitted the proposed team for approval by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to take part in a 3-day conference, *Driving Transformation: Innovations Fueling Tomorrow's Workforce System*.

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Driving Transformation

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Team Connect SI was chosen by the DOL. This team will work with a state team in consort with teams from eight other states.

The ETA believes we are living in a time of transformation. The emerging global economy creates new demands on the workforce system that must be confronted by working together. That's why the ETA is offering a unique, customized learning experience designed to support the team members in learning how to envision, energize, and catalyze innovative service delivery strategies. The forum will focus on developing innovative strategies and action plans with a hands-on, dynamic learning opportunity for teams to work with professional facilitators, thought leaders, and peers in five focus areas:

- Workforce System Structure and Governance;
- Understanding the Talent Pool;
- Diversification of Workforce Funding;
- Service Delivery Strategies for One-Stop Career Center; and
- Change Management.

Members of Team Connect SI include Kathy Lively, Rex Duncan, Woody Thorne, Phil Minnis, Betty Musgrave, and Michelle Rheinecker. The forum takes place from December 11-13 at the McCormick Center in Chicago. ■

Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER BRYAN CROSS

Bryan Cross was recently appointed as an education representative to the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Bryan was recently elected as Regional Superintendent of Schools for Hamilton and Jefferson Counties and began his term on July 1, 2007. Prior to becoming Regional Superintendent of Schools he had accumulated 17 years of experience in education having served as a teacher, principal, and district superintendent. He also has experience working for the Regional Office of Education as a grant writer, program coordinator and as director/principal of the Alternative Education Programs.



Bryan Cross

Bryan grew up in Dahlgren and graduated from McLeansboro High School where he was a member of the 1984 state championship basketball team. He received an associate's degree from Rend Lake College, a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and advanced degrees from Eastern Illinois University. He currently serves as president of the Human Services Networking Council and as a member of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club. Bryan and his wife Andrea reside in Mt. Vernon. ■

Message from Our Chairman

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formula allocations were used, this would mean an \$11,827,852 rescission to the state of Illinois which would equate to a local reduction of funds of \$197,960.90. The President vetoed the bill. Will Congress override the President's veto? Will congress resubmit the appropriations bill before the end of the program year (June 2008)? With our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan in need of retraining and with our recent local plant closures, now is not the time to cut funds for these much needed programs or drag their feet on approving funding for programs which started in July.

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**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.*

Message from Our Chairman

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WIA Reauthorization is underway. U. S. Representative Howard “Buck” McKeon of California has introduced House Resolution 3747 (The Workforce Investment Improvement Act). U. S. Representative Charles Rangel of New York has introduced H. R. 3920 (The Trade & Globalization Assistance Act of 2007). U. S. Representative Wally Herger of Texas has introduced H. R. 3943 (The Trade Adjustment Assistance and Training Improvements Act of 2007). Even the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget has chimed in with a Statement of Administration Policy. Can reauthorization be far behind?

Just as a reminder, please mark your calendar now for our next SIWIB meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007, in the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center’s Great Room. A reception and cash bar will be held at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Secretary Hopkins by email at bobhopkins@mantracon.org, or by phone at (800) 315-3986, extension 222, before Monday, November 26th with the number to attend and your guest’s name. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 13, 2007

SIWIB Board Meeting
at the
Rend Lake Resort and
Conference Center
Whittington, Illinois

Reception at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Bob Hopkins
at (800) 315-3986, extension 222,
or via email at
bobhopkins@mantracon.org
no later than **Monday,**
November 26, 2007.