



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 4: ISSUE 5: JULY 2008

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SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

First Lead SI Institute a Success!

BY DARREN BAILEY

When first addressed, the infant youth leadership initiative *LEAD SI* was likened to the crops being prepared and planted at that time by the region's farmers. The goal of the *LEAD SI Institute*, held June 11-13th, was to plant a seed in the minds of southern Illinois' future leaders. The expected harvest date was somewhere in the distant future — perhaps as many as ten years away.

At that time, no one would have predicted that the final planting of southern Illinois corn would coincide with the culmination of the *LEAD SI Institute*. Though Mother Nature attempted to link both timetables, the wildly positive returns from the Institute would suggest that *LEAD SI* is quite a bit ahead.

Thirty upcoming juniors and seniors from across the region's high schools convened on the Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale campus for three days of laughing, learning, and growing. In addition to a schedule full of specialized leadership training activities designed by SIU's Director of Student Development Katie Sermersheim,

which focused on vital characteristics such as team-building, decision-making, strength-identification, and communication, great emphasis was put on networking the participants with current leaders from around southern Illinois. Individuals from a vast spectrum of professions — business, education, communication, law, and public office, to name a few — accepted invitations to offer observations and advice and to serve as inspiration for the participants.

The group was honored by the presence of recent Lincoln Academy Laureate Bill Norwood. Many of the participants paid special attention to the former Southern Illinois University athlete and United Airlines pilot — the first African-American to hold such a position. Local leaders Bill Bonan II, Rep. John Bradley, Marion Mayor Bob Butler, Cheryl Endres, and Bruce Fasol joined Bill Norwood on a special panel of speakers. Many from that group and others, such as Rep. Mike Bost,

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Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I wish each of you a very “HAPPY NEW YEAR!” That’s right... it is the start of yet another year for our WIA programs. The new program year begins with a farewell to Graduate Assistant Lisa Knight who has moved on to follow her career goals. Good luck, Lisa! Mr. Darren Bailey was hired to assist us in Lisa’s place. Welcome aboard, Darren!

At our last Board meeting we inaugurated our first consent agenda. I think this new approach to dealing with our routine business will free us up for meaningful discussions about what is happening and where we want to go next.

I extend our thanks to Ed Beck, Pat Drake and Mark Kern for many years of leadership and work as members of the SIWIB. Ed has resigned since his business no longer affords him the time to participate as much as he would like. Both Pat and Mark have retired and are no longer eligible to serve on the

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SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Business & Economic Development Committee

Chairwoman Roe presented the members with copies of an application from Southern Pride, located in Marion, Illinois, in the amount of \$10,000 for Incumbent Worker Training. This training will be offered to eight individuals in laser and sheet metal fabrication for the commercial grills the company manufactures. The proposal met all the requirements for participation and reimbursement. The committee unanimously agreed it was a worthwhile project to fund.

Roxanne Brewer-Coffey was present to update the committee on the activities of the One-Stop Business Service Team. She reported the team had met earlier in the day to review and revise the current plan with the basic foundation of business retention and relationship nurturing. Ms. Brewer-Coffey stated

that IDES had graciously accepted the key administrative role. The Illinois Skills Match system now has better reporting capabilities. IDES will compile the data and activities and report to the Business and Economic Development Committee of the SIWIB. A new draft of the plan will be emailed to this committee for review within the next few weeks. The team agreed to meet quarterly.

The committee held discussions on the results of the ERISS survey. They were surprised to find that a majority of the businesses surveyed were not interested in opportunities for international trade. They felt this should be a big issue with the need to educate business on the many opportunities.

Another ongoing concern was related to the poor work ethic among our workforce. The committee decided

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First LEAD SI Institute a Success!

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Lee Crisp, Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole, Chancellor Sam Goldman, Dr. Ella Lacey, and Dr. Jim Scales attended either the “backyard barbeque” hosted by SIU President Glenn Poshard at the Stone Center or the dessert reception held at the Student Center, which followed an etiquette dinner attended by the participants.

A visit to SIU’s Touch of Nature environmental center was also in order, as the participants completed a challenging, yet enjoyable teams course, which honed

skills such as team-building, communication, trust, and decision-making. The participants were encouraged to meet new people and tear down the walls that separate communities. This was facilitated by the small-group structure which divided the group of thirty into five groups of six — with special care given to separate students from the same high school.

The participants were given one final surprise near the end of the institute.

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First LEAD SI Institute a Success!

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While learning new techniques for stress control and decision-making under pressure in a session taught by Dr. Nancy Aguinaga, they were pleased to discover they would each receive their own Emwave — a handheld device that helps individuals learn to control their breathing, pulse, and in turn, their stress levels. The devices were handed out during a graduation attended by the *LEAD SI* planning committee and many of the special guests they had met during the week. Each participant also received a framed certificate acknowledging their participation in *LEAD SI*'s first ever institute.

With *LEAD SI* being a first-of-its-kind program in southern Illinois, there admittedly were some concerns about how the high school participants would respond to a fun, but intensive training schedule and personal interaction with well-known local leaders. It did not take long for any and all fears to be quelled.

The participants graciously thanked invited guests like motivational speaker Jean Driscoll from Champaign — an Olympian, Paralympian, and an eight-time winner of the Boston Marathon — and President Poshard, who gave a stirring presentation on his personal thoughts on leadership and what he believes are the necessary characteristics to be a successful leader. President Poshard stressed the importance of being a champion of what is right and helping to develop southern Illinois.

The level of maturity expressed by the participants was shockingly impressive, rivaled perhaps only by their ability and willingness to communicate their thoughts and opinions. They quickly grasped the magnitude of their situation and the value of the opportunity being given to them. They began the institute as thirty unassuming high school students, blending in with a myriad of participants from various summer camps on the Carbondale campus. They left as both current leaders and as the next generation of leaders in southern Illinois — already yearning for an opportunity to contribute.

The Southern Illinoisan said, "Three days in June 2008 may be remembered as pivotal in the history of southern Illinois." For the planning committee and the local leaders who were in attendance, that "may" is looking a lot more like "will".

A year-long schedule of follow-up training activities is now being developed and will serve as the nutrients for the crop of young leaders, and an individualized mentoring process will be the rain and sunlight from above. Still, it has become quite apparent that the leadership harvest will be sooner and stronger than anyone could have originally believed. As one of the participants noted, "First year rocks!"

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Business & Economic Development Committee

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they will focus on addressing the poor work ethic and socialization skills of our workforce and learn how to partner with education.

The group was pleasantly surprised that the average score relating to the overall business climate in the state exceeded their expectations. However, responding businesses project only 225 jobs to be added next year.

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee meeting was held on July 1, 2008, at the Marion Man-Tra-Con office. The following items were discussed:

- Traffic reports distributed to the group reflect the number of visitors to the Mt. Vernon One-Stop Center has doubled in the second quarter with unemployment claims being filed through Illinois workNet. The Marion One-Stop experienced a decline in first-time visitors, but the numbers remained the same in overall visits in the second quarter. The number of visitors to the Carbondale location increased, while the volume decreased in the West Frankfort and Du Quoin offices.

- Penny Valentine announced UI claims are being delivered to Crownline Boats over their summer slow-down period; the anticipated return-to-work date will be in August.

- Cary Minnis outlined the Southern Illinois Business Retention and Expansion Survey 2008 Summary Report.

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One-Stop Committee

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He highlighted responses to questions regarding barriers to growth, staffing outlook, recruiting and retaining employees, common job applicant deficiencies, and employee skills upgrades.

■ Cindy Webb reported Man-Tra-Con is ranked second in the state for new registrants on Illinois workNet, and is ranked first in all other categories. Illinois workNet will begin to partner with Career Builder next month. The rescheduled date for the Illinois workNet launch is August 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at John A. Logan College.

■ Alan Summers asked the committee to complete rating sheets for the Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award and submit them to Roxanne Brewer-Coffey by July 18. Winners will be acknowledged at the September SIWIB Annual meeting.

■ Crosswalk's Summer Cooling program began July 7, and ended July 18. The benefit to the customer was \$150.00.

■ The pilot for the EmploySI Web site has been rolled out.

■ RIDES Mass Transit will be adding a new route from Harrisburg to Carbondale for job seekers.

The next One-Stop Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2008. ■

First LEAD SI Institute a Success!

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For any questions about *LEAD SI*, how you can get involved, or if you are interested in acting as a mentor, please contact Darren Bailey at darrenbailey@mantracon.org.

Connect SI Participates in National Nursing Capacity Summit in Washington D.C.

BY CARY MINNIS

Connect SI had the opportunity to discuss the challenges faced in developing nursing capacity in rural southern Illinois at a national event sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Center to Champion Nursing in America.

Connect SI, part of Team Illinois, was selected to be one of 18 state teams who participated in the Nursing Education Capacity Summit held on June 26-27, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Team Illinois was chosen from 49 state applicants in a highly competitive selection process.

The Summit provided state teams the opportunity to consult with experts, share best practices with other state teams and learn about innovative strategies. In addition, the Summit allowed Team Illinois to discuss current activities to aid in expanding nursing education capacity as well as other projects that are still in development.

Team Illinois members represent strong regional collaborative partnerships committed to building the nursing workforce for the communities they serve. Team participants represented southern, central, northwest and northeast Illinois, including the City of Chicago. Each team member's role on Team Illinois initiated from their involvement in ongoing regional and state nursing workforce initiatives.

Kathy Lively, executive director of *Connect SI*, felt this summit provided the venue to increase national awareness of southern Illinois' nursing initiatives. While attending this summit, Ms. Lively forged new partnerships with other regions from all across the nation and with national associations that all share the commitment to address the shortage of nurses. Ms. Lively expects *Connect SI* will benefit greatly from the knowledge and support these new partnerships can provide. ■

Auto Supplier's University is a Win-Win

Continental University is a model of what is needed in the United States to facilitate training and education for people that might otherwise have the opportunity to gain skill sets, says Hank Eisenga, vice president of manufacturing, Continental Tire North America, located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. He is referring to the auto tire and brake system supplier's university, which offers classes free of charge. The effort is a partnership of the company, local colleges and universities, and state training grants. The university has been in place for a year, following two years of pilot programming.

In the spring of 2008, Rend Lake College offered 11 classes that 94 students completed. So far this year, 118 employees have completed computer workshops.

Because of the computer-based training lab and video lab at the Mt. Vernon facility, classes can be conducted on site or students can participate via the Internet or Web-based learning classes, either at Rend Lake College or Southern Illinois University, Eisenga says. The company is in the discussion phase with other universities to offer additional classes. There were more than 1,000 classes attended by Continental Tire employees in the spring semester. A typical employee takes anywhere from one to three different classes. Employees and their families can earn associate, bachelor or master degrees. A broad base of classes are somewhat focused and include CAD courses, business degrees and a number of classes related to the Mt. Vernon facility.

"One of the focuses is to expand the curriculum and educational opportunities so they are available to any employee regardless of what shift they are working," Eisenga says. The Mt. Vernon facility features 2,300 employees, who work at a facility with more than 60 acres under roof operating in a 24/7 environment. "This is a win-win for everyone involved," Eisenga says. "The employees can earn a degree they would not have otherwise had the ability to earn; we have better educated, stronger and more committed employees in this facility that can use the skill sets gained through education for on the job activities; the community benefits and the higher education facilities benefit from expanded enrollments." ■

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Spotlight On...

BOARD MEMBER MILTON MAXWELL

Milton Maxwell recognized for 25 years of leadership & service

Mr. Milton Maxwell was pleasantly surprised when Chairman William Armstrong recognized him for twenty-five years of dedicated service to the residents of southern Illinois.

Mr. Maxwell was recognized

as a leader in workforce development at the June 19th meeting of the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board.



PHOTO BY BOB HOPKINS

Milton Maxwell, left, receives a service award from SIWIB Chairman William Armstrong at the SIWIB meeting in June.

As a charter member of the Private Industry Council, Mr. Maxwell was appointed to the PIC to represent Jackson County in May of 1983. The PIC was responsible for the oversight of the local Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) programs funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). Again in January 2000, Mr. Maxwell stepped up to the plate as he was appointed by the chief local elected officials to serve as a member of the SIWIB.

Over the course of his twenty-five years of service to the region, Mr. Maxwell has led by example and shown his leadership abilities on countless occasions. He has chaired numerous committees and held a plethora of offices on both boards. He currently serves as Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Board Development Committee and a member of the Executive Committee.

Chairman Armstrong said, "Milton has been of great value to me personally as well as the Board. We (the Board) greatly appreciate your service!" Chairman Armstrong then presented Mr. Maxwell with a Certificate of Appreciation, an engraved plaque and a gift certificate in recognition of twenty-five consecutive years of leadership and dedicated service on the Private Industry Council and the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Maxwell humbly accepted the recognition and tokens of appreciation and said, "I have seen a lot of change for the better over these past years and I hope that I may have contributed to them in some measure." ■



**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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Board. We wish them all well and thank them for their service. I wish to recognize Mr. Milton Maxwell for his quarter of a century of leadership in workforce development. (See article on page 5)

At the June 19, 2008 meeting the Board ratified the local workforce plan modifications, approved contracts and modified the bylaws. The bylaws were modified changing the Annual Meeting from June to September. The election of Board officers will take place at the September meeting with terms of office changed to run from October 1st through September 30th.

Preceding the meeting our local WIA award nominees were honored with a dinner and an awards recognition ceremony. The One-Stop Committee will select our local award winners. ■

Naomi Jakobsson has sponsored House Resolution 1443 designating the week of August 24, 2008, as “Workforce Development Week” in the State of Illinois.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 31, 2008

**Joint Executive
Committee Meeting**
5:00 p.m. at the
Harrisburg One-Stop Center
303 South Commercial St.
Harrisburg, Illinois

AUGUST 5, 2008

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

AUGUST 13, 2008

Youth Council
4:00 p.m. at the
One-Stop Business
& Employment Center in
Marion, Illinois