



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 5: ISSUE 5: DECEMBER 2009

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Visit our Web site at
www.siwib.org

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:

Individual Achievement Award Winner Paula Porter

BY MICHELLE CERUTTI,

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MAN-TRA-CON CORPORATION

I am proud to report that Paula Porter was honored with the Individual Achievement Award at the annual Workforce Development Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, October 22, 2009, in Springfield.

Paula Porter, a single mother, was dislocated from Technicolor Universal Media Services (TUMS) on March 22, 2007. She enrolled in the Radiologic Technology program at Rend Lake College in fall of 2007, with assistance from the TAA and WIA programs. Paula excelled in school and graduated in May of 2009, with a GPA of 3.743/4.0.

After graduation, she passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologies exam. In June, she began working PRN (as needed) at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Murphysboro. Within several months, she moved into a part-time Radiologic Technologist staff position in the department. Shortly thereafter,



PAULA PORTER

Paula was offered a full-time position with benefits. She loves her job and is really grateful for the assistance that Man-Tra-Con provided her.

"When God closes one door, he opens another. I believe this is true. I didn't know what I was going to do when Technicolor closed the doors.

With the help of my Man-Tra-Con career specialist, I was able to choose a promising career path and build a future for myself and for my son. I am truly blessed," said Paula.

Paula is excited about furthering her education in Radiology. She is currently learning CT Scan technology at work and plans on taking the exam to become registered. Career Specialist Erin Tarrants added, *"Paula's positive attitude and determination made her a pleasure to work with. I am really proud of her accomplishments and wish her a successful future!"* ♦

SIWIB News is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published by Man-Tra-Con Corporation under a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant provided by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This publication seeks to promote workforce development efforts in Local Workforce Area 25. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For specific access information please contact (Voice) 618-998-9921, ext. 230, (TTY) 618-998-9602, or cindywebb@mantracon.org. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

Message from Our Chairperson...



MARY M. ROE

I wish to thank all of you for the confidence you expressed in re-electing me as your Board Chair at our Annual Meeting. It is my distinct honor to serve as your Chair, once again! I am excited about working with you and with our dedicated Executive Committee consisting of William Armstrong, John Alongi, Jim McPhail, Janice McConaughy, Kathy Lively, Milton Maxwell, Michelle Rheinecker, Alan Summers and Tyler Young. Thank you for your continued commitment of serving the people of southern Illinois and your valued and greatly appreciated leadership.

I also wish to thank CLEO John Evans and SIWIB members Bill Armstrong and Kathy Lively for joining me at the Illinois Workforce Development Conference this year. I appreciate their continued commitment of increasing their knowledge of workforce issues.

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SIWIB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Board Development Committee

The committee met on August 24, 2009, and discussed the following items:

Recruitment Effort

At the suggestion of Kathy Lively, the committee will begin a recruitment effort to fill the transportation, warehousing, and logistics industries spot that may become vacant. One of the SIWIB members has stated he might not be seeking reappointment to the SIWIB. Committee members were asked to review a list of possible businesses in LWA # 25 that would qualify in those industries and contact staff with any recommendations for possible consideration. Members were also asked if they knew anyone from those businesses the local Chamber of Commerce would recommend to the CLEOs for appointment.

September SIWIB Meeting Agenda

The committee discussed agenda items for the September SIWIB meeting. Ms. Lively informed the committee about the annual *Workforce Development Conference* and asked that local businesses and clients names be submitted at the September SIWIB meeting for possible recognition at the conference. The *Workforce Development Conference* was held in Springfield, Illinois on October 22, 2009.

Ms. Lively informed the committee that there have been several modifications to the local *Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)* and *On-the-Job Training (OJT)* policies as well as modifications to the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* for approval by the Board. Kathy stated that members would receive a brief description of each of the items on the consent agenda, and that any item may be removed if further discussion or explanation were necessary.

Ms. Lively asked Dr. Struck to report on economic development activities in Perry County and stated that she would ask Bill

Dill with FREDCO to report on economic development activities in Franklin County.

Workforce Development Week

Kathy Lively informed the committee about *Workforce Development Week* celebration activities and visits by DCEO Director Warren Ribley and Deputy Director Therese McMahon. Ms. Lively requested members participate in the various activities planned for the Monday, August 31, launch.

One-Stop Committee

The following is a summary of approved minutes for meetings held on August 18 and September 15, 2009.

Adult Education

Kendra Humphreys reported the Adult Education Department at Southern Illinois University is expecting funding; however, details are still forthcoming as ICCB is still working on allocations. June Hickey reported *Rebound* in Carbondale is no longer closed; they received a letter of intent for funding. Phil Minnis reported John A. Logan College is approximately 90% funded however the details regarding the Adult Education program are still unknown.

Crosswalk

Debra Jackanicz reported *Crosswalk* had not received the summer stimulus grant as of August 18, 2009. As a result, they were not able to distribute the 25 – 30 scholarships to students they previously awarded because funds had not yet been received. Debra is awaiting guidelines for the weatherization project. Training certification for contractors has been mandated. The training will be provided through John A. Logan College and requires 50 hours of training per person.

Closures and Layoffs

As of the September meeting, the Department of Corrections was the only new addition to the *Layoff Schedule by Company* report distributed by Michelle Cerutti. Ms. Cerutti stated that Spartan Light Metals might be recalling former workers. Angela

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Message from Our Chairperson...

(Continued from page 2)

The conference offered several workshops and guest speakers Mr. Warren Ribley, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Mr. Nicholas Lammers, Assistant Regional Administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration for Region V.

Please welcome Mr. Marion Lappin to the SIWIB. He is the owner of Lappin Trucking in Sesser. He is our newest Board member and is a business representative from the transportation industry. He was appointed September 16, 2009 to fill Randall Crompton's unexpired term on the Board. Mr. Crompton resigned from the Board in September when he retired from Vernell's Interstate Service. Thank you for your service, Randall and welcome aboard, Marion!

Congratulations to Mr. Tom Caliper who celebrated twenty five years of service as a volunteer in the local workforce development system. Tom started his service as a member of the Private Industry Council with the Job Training Partnership Act on June 15, 1984. We are fortunate to have his continued leadership and valuable input as a loyal member and labor representative on the SIWIB.

We will be recognizing our Individual Achievement Award winner and nominee at our December 10th SIWIB meeting. So, please mark your calendars for our December SIWIB Meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center and plan to attend. ♦

Spotlight On...

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

SUBMITTED BY VICTOR HARRIS, LOCAL OFFICE MANAGER,
IDES, MURPHYSBORO

Led by Director Maureen O'Donnell since November 2008, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) supports economic stability throughout the state by paying unemployment benefits, connecting employers with qualified job seekers, and providing economic information to assist in career planning and economic development.



IDES provides employment services and guidance to workers, job seekers and employers through a statewide network of employment offices and Illinois workNet centers. The agency combines federally funded job training programs in Illinois to create a "workforce development" system where individuals can look for work, plan a career change, refine a resume or obtain job training.

For example, our *Illinois Skills Match* program connects qualified job seekers with employers looking for specific talents and abilities; and, in conjunction with services provided by our partners, the *Illinois workNet* program helps individuals identify career paths, and provides businesses with tools needed to recruit, train and develop a competitive workforce. These broad-based efforts are critical to workforce and economic development in Illinois.

Just as important are the specialized programs tailored to specific groups in an effort to put people in the best position to succeed. Programs have been developed for: Illinois' military veterans; those rebuilding their lives and re-entering the workforce after being incarcerated; teenagers looking to develop their

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• ABOVE: Chairperson Mary Roe
• welcomes new member Marion
• Lappin to the SIWIB.

• PHOTOS BY BOB HOPKINS

• BELOW: Chairperson Mary Roe presents
• Tom Caliper with an Appreciation Award
• for 25 years of service as a volunteer in
• the local workforce development system.



One-Stop Committee

Closures and Layoffs

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Holmes-Young reported that Aisin is currently busy and has a large number of temporary workers. They are not hiring at present since they do not know if they will continue at the current production level. The company is hopeful for stabilization over the next few months.

Elevate America Program

Michelle Cerutti explained that Microsoft and DCEO have joined forces to provide free vouchers for on-line training to become a certified Microsoft Office User at several levels of expertise. The program allows those interested to complete training within one year at an individual's own pace. John A. Logan College received 200 vouchers, Crosswalk Community Action Agency received 90 vouchers, and Southern Illinois University's Adult Education Department received five vouchers, which were to be activated by October 31, 2009. Participants were required to take their first test by October 31, 2009. After the initial test, participants have one free retake that must be completed within one year. Man-Tra-Con was designated as an official testing center for *Elevate America*.

Special Grants Update

Cary Minnis reported on the status of the Health Information Exchange Planning Grant, which began on July 1, 2009. This grant which requires working with all types of healthcare providers, such as doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies in a 31-county region has the potential to transform the way healthcare is provided in the region. The vision for this transformation through a Health Information Exchange is:

When healthcare is delivered in southern Illinois, Electronic Health Records (EHR) are used interactively by all caregivers at the point of care which:

- ◆ are interoperable with all relevant data sources

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Spotlight on... IDES

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emerging talents or identify hidden skills; and, of course, displaced workers in our state looking to re-enter the workforce.

Employment Security and More...

Many people may not know that the Illinois Department of Employment Security is also the State's premier source for labor market information. IDES provides employment statistics and job forecasts as well as wage comparisons and demographic information. This information is used to monitor and forecast national, statewide and local economic trends. The information and analysis is then used to help our customers — individuals, businesses, community groups or local governments — make informed decisions about job prospects, training, education and economic development.

The Department's primary mission is about employment security, and we are most often associated with unemployment benefits that provide temporary assistance for workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The system helps Illinois families survive while innovative teams and economic development groups work to restore past jobs and create new ones.

IDES is proud of its role and responsibility in supporting economic stability across the state. Our current mission and structure were formed in 1984, when state officials implemented changes to better leverage federal assistance and improve service for all residents of Illinois.

Today, more than ever, public and private sectors must work together to support each other's strengths. We must use education, job training, and career counseling programs to help our clients develop the strength, confidence and abilities they will need to create productive ways of living. As we move forward together, please know that Department staff and resources are available to each of you in our concerted effort to support individual families as well as the economy. ■



*For more information about IDES programs and services,
visit our Web site at www.ides.state.il.us*

- ◆ compliment the caregiver with a body of knowledge and clinical tools
- ◆ are accessible by patients and other providers
- ◆ support the practice of Evidence Based Medicine and
- ◆ enable national/state quality measures and reporting

A consultant has been hired to help guide the planning process and a Steering Committee has been formed to lead this

local initiative. Currently work is underway assessing the region's current EHR adoption status and recruiting others to participate in the planning process.

It is expected that the transition to EHRs within the local healthcare facilities will increase the need for additional training and education for healthcare providers who have little or no computer experience.

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One Stop Committee

Other

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The *State Nursing Grant* ended June 30, 2009, but the state has allowed funds to be carried over through June 2010. The Southern Illinois Online Nursing Initiative's (SIONI) hybrid on-line nursing program is set to begin in January 2010. Student orientation will be held November 21, 2009, with faculty orientation following on November 30 and December 1, 2009. Employers of the SIONI students are being contacted to discuss using the incumbent worker program to pay for the training.

Traffic Reports

Cindy Webb distributed the *Resource Center Visitor's Report* and stated the One-Stop Centers had been extremely busy with accepting applications for Crownline Boats. Approximately 600 applications were received through the One-Stop Business and Employment Centers; however, these numbers were not reflected in the Traffic Reports.

Other

At the September 18th meeting, representatives from IDES explained the RES and REA Workshops. The RES Workshop targets those filing for U/I who are likely to exhaust their benefits. The REA Workshop targets those filing for U/I benefits who are likely to return to work. Both programs are designed to encourage and motivate individuals to find employment. These individuals may be referred to the One-Stop Business and Employment Centers. At this time, no formal referral form or tracking system is in place.

Youth Council

The following is a summary of approved minutes for meetings held on August 12 and September 9, 2009.

Summer Works Update

Roxanne Brewer-Coffey reported as of the August meeting date, 245 youth had been enrolled in the *Summer Works* program. There were 93 participating worksites and Man-Tra-Con was continuing to accept

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Laterria Martin

As a *Summer Works* participant Laterria Martin, 21, spent her time learning and working in the Finance Department for the City of Carbondale from June 11 to September 25, 2009.

As part of her job training, Laterria learned the QuickBooks program while working in the department's "store" — where employees go to purchase needed office supplies. Laterria's main duty as part-time summer clerical staff was to track office supply inventory and expenses using the *QuickBooks* program. She also helped other employees with filing during her *Summer Works* assignment.

Laterria enjoyed her experience with *Summer Works*. "I really loved it... and I learned a lot... especially *QuickBooks*, which my supervisor [Jamie Trammel] said will help me find a full-time job," Laterria added.

Administrative Secretary Jamie Trammel was pleased with her *Summer Works* employee's performance, "Laterria was an excellent employee with a good work ethic. She was always on time and learned quickly."

"Laterria is an ambitious self-starter who does not need much supervision. She was originally talking about getting a G.E.D., then impressed me by getting her High School diploma all on her own. She would be a great asset to any company who hired her," Ms. Trammel added.

Laterria recently earned her High School diploma from an online program offered by Nation High School in Florida. This fall, she enrolled at John A. Logan College (JALC) and someday would like to become an actress. She is hoping to be able to find part-time employment while attending classes at JALC.

"Last year I was trying to find a job and my grandfather told me to go to Man-Tra-Con. I finally went and they helped me a lot. I didn't think I could go this far," said Martin.

Good luck to you Laterria! ♦



Jamie Trammel, left, stands outside City Hall in Carbondale with Laterria Martin.



Laterria Martin sits at her desk in the supply store.

PHOTOS BY THERESA SMITH

Youth Council

Summer Works

(Continued from page 5)

work site applications in an effort to fill 61 remaining job slots. Many worksites had requested extensions through the end of September 2009. Those who requested extensions were encouraged to take on a new youth to enable the *Summer Works* program to serve as many individuals as possible. The program goal is to serve 400 youth.

Ms. Brewer-Coffey also reported Man-Tra-Con had been working in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to place eligible *Summer Works* youth participants in jobs at the Du Quoin State Fair. Forty-nine youth were determined to be eligible to work at the fair. As of the September meeting date, 40 participants had gone through the orientation process for the Du Quoin State Fair, and 32 had completed their 10-day/12-hour work assignments at the Fair. Of those, 23 were placed at a second worksite for an additional six weeks. Thirty-five participants who were closed out of *Summer Works* services expressed an interest in the Year-Round Youth program. As a result, 30 have transferred back to Year-Round Youth services.

Dorothy Porter reported several employers, including Perry County Humane Society and Baker's Plumbing, extended offers of

permanent employment to their *Summer Works* youth participants.

The *Summer Works* program also underwent its second monitoring. The monitoring was specific to the eligibility determination process and the Du Quoin State Fair as a summer worksite. There were no findings and the monitor said the program was "*well executed and a fine example of a well-run summer program.*"

Roxanne Brewer-Coffey also reported the *Summer Works* program has been extended through March 2010. As a result, the program is continuing to conduct mass intakes; mass orientations; youth are still being placed at worksites; and post assessments are currently being administered.

Workforce Development Week

DCEO Director Warren Ribley visited on August 31, 2009 to celebrate Workforce Development Week and tour *Summer Works* program worksites. The tour began at the John A. Logan College Man-Tra-Con Transition Center, and then travelled to Kindling Spirits, a *Summer Works* program worksite. Representatives from additional worksites and their youth participants — such as Baker and Sons Plumbing, City of Carbondale and the Science Center — joined the group for lunch at Kindling Spirits. Worksite supervisors introduced youth participants and gave a brief synopsis of their youths' *Summer Works* experience.

The group then travelled to the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds where youth participants engaged in a photo opportunity with Director Ribley and Governor Pat Quinn.

The day ended at the Man-Tra-Con Family Opportunity Center in DuQuoin where several more worksite representatives — such as the Medicine Shop, City of Pinckneyville, Pinckneyville City Clerk's Office and Jefferson County Business Development Corporation — joined the group. Worksite supervisors introduced youth participants and relayed some great stories of how the young adults in their charge had overcome many barriers. Director Ribley stated that he was very pleased with the *Summer Works* program and his visit.

Year-Round Contractors' Reports

The Youth Council approved the Year-Round Contractors' Reports at the September meeting. Ms. Brewer-Coffey informed the Youth Council of the Year-Round Contractors' concerns about reaching the required 50% enrollment by September 30, 2009. The Youth Council decided to keep the enrollment goal the same, but stated the contractors will not be penalized if that goal is not met. The goal of 75% by December 31st is most critical and the Youth Council requested the contractors strive to reach this goal. ♦



PHOTO LEFT: DCEO Director Warren Ribley (center) pauses for a group photo at Kindling Spirits with City of Carbondale Administrative Secretary Jamie Trammel, *Summer Works* Youth Participant Laterria Martin, and *Summer Works* Coordinator Dorothy Porter.

PHOTO RIGHT: *Summer Works* youth at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds enjoy a photo opportunity with Governor Pat Quinn (far right).

Magnum Steel Works Inc. Incumbent Worker Training Project

BY ROSIE ROBINSON,
BUSINESS SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR, MAN-TRA-CON CORPORATION

Magnum Steel Works Inc., located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, recently applied for assistance through the Incumbent Worker Training program. Magnum needed to advance existing employees' knowledge on the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Lathe machine — which is used for customized metal work. The employer stressed that CNC skilled employees are imperative to the growth and stability of the company. Jim Czerwinski, president of Magnum Steel Works Inc., stated the regional workforce skill set is deficit with individuals who have CNC operating skills.

In August of 2009, Magnum contracted with Hartwig, Inc. (based in St. Louis, Missouri) to work on-site with Jim and his employees for four days, teaching the Okuma One-Touch IGF Lathe Programming Class. The cost of the training totalled \$3,840.00, which was paid with IWT funds. For their share in the project's expenses, the employer paid for employee wages and fringe benefits during the training period.

Mr. Czerwinski stated, "This training gives my fellow employees additional marketable skills as well as allowing the company to bid on additional projects."

With this training, Magnum Steel can expand customized service to current clients as well as expand their market to accept more projects. They expect this effort to provide a stable work environment for their employees.

Employees will have 90 days to practice and display their acquired skills and their ability to program and use the CNC machine. Upon demonstration that they have adequately achieved the skills to run the CNC machine, they will receive a 2% raise in wages.

Currently, Magnum Steel Works, Inc. employs 40 people. ♦



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Jim Czerwinski,
president of Magnum
Steel Works Inc.,
with machinists
Richard Skwarek
and William
Skyllynn Blackwell.

PHOTO BY
ROSIE ROBINSON

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 9, 2009

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

DECEMBER 10, 2009

**Southern Illinois Workforce
Investment Board**
6:00 p.m. at the
Rend Lake Resort
& Conference Center
Whittington, Illinois

MARCH 18, 2010

**Southern Illinois Workforce
Investment Board**
5:30 p.m. at the
One-Stop Business
& Employment Center in
Marion, Illinois

For more information about
upcoming SIWIB meetings visit:

[http://www.siwib.org/
displaymeetings.asp](http://www.siwib.org/displaymeetings.asp)

*Coming soon...
information on
WIA WORKS!*

* * *

*Have a
Happy & Healthy
New Year!*