



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 6: ISSUE 1: MARCH 2010

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Visit our Web site at
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WIA WORKS in Illinois... A Call to Action!

WIA Works is a marketing initiative developed by the Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The primary goal of this initiative is to raise awareness among legislators and show how locally administered Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs and services provided by Illinois workNet™ centers have contributed to workforce and economic development efforts throughout the state of Illinois.

"The role of Illinois workNet™ centers is crucial to the success of both job seekers and businesses and is one of those "best-kept secrets" we'd like to showcase as a national model," states David Stoecklin, Illinois Workforce Partnership president and executive director of Madison County Employment and Training.

From the Illinois workNet Web site... A brief overview of the WIA Works campaign:

The WIA Works campaign communicates the Illinois Workforce Partnership's position on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), a critical piece of federal legislation that provides the framework for our national workforce preparation and employment system. The Illinois Workforce Partnership is comprised of the 26 Local

Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) in Illinois and acts as a unified voice for workforce issues. Congress is expected to take up WIA reauthorization in 2010.

WIA Works' goal is to ensure the workforce system is strengthened yet retains room for local innovation. The WIA Works campaign empowers key influencers in the Illinois Congressional Delegation and Local Workforce Investment Boards to articulate what has been successful in the Illinois workNet™ system and what should be added to the legislation to strengthen the workforce network's ability to help job seekers realize their dreams.

Through outreach to the Illinois Congressional Delegation by local WIA offices, elected officials, and union and business leaders, the campaign provides a benchmark document, and the WIA Works Checklist. These materials inform elected officials and their staff on how to evaluate potential proposals and language in the legislation.

Participants in WIA Works believe that if Congress utilizes the WIA Works Checklist through the reauthorization process, the end result will be in the best interest of all Americans.

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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

“THANKS” to Bill Armstrong, Mary Ellen Bechtel and Kathy Lively who accompanied me to the National Association of Workforce Boards’ (NAWB) Annual Conference (Forum 2010) in Washington D.C. As usual, the conference was an excellent opportunity to network with other local workforce investment board (LWIB) members from across the country. The conference not only provided an array of informative sessions and workshops but also offered a first-hand look at a multitude of exhibitors’ products in one convenient location. There were a myriad of workshops and policy discussions. Jobs and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization were the hot topics at the conference.

We hope congress might appropriate more money for a Summer Youth program. This program would offer our area youth and young adults an introduction to career exploration and a skills development opportunity they would not have experienced otherwise. The Summer Youth Program is not just a learning experience. It also provides our youngsters with a

(Continued on page 3)

SIWIB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Board Development Committee

The following is a summary of the meeting held on October 27, 2009.

Board Orientation Videos

The committee discussed ways to implement the new workforce board member orientation videos created by the state. The committee decided the videos should be presented at the various committee meetings so that all current and new members may have an opportunity to view them.

Miscellaneous Business

A regional meeting for the CLEOs and Local Workforce Investment Board Chairs from LWIAs 20 -26 was held on November 12th at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon. The purpose of the meeting was to plan

the development of a coordinated message from local workforce areas across the state about the continued need for local control in WIA re-authorization legislation. Ms. Lively informed the committee about a movement at the federal level to have State Merit staff be responsible for WIA program operations. State Merit staff in Illinois would be the Department of Employment Security staff. If this were to happen, there is a fear that local control would be lost.

The committee discussed and approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to meet with U. S. Senator Richard Durbin to educate the senator on WIA Re-authorization issues and local workforce development system needs.

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WIA Works in Illinois

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Participate in this initiative

Local Workforce Investment Areas throughout the state have been encouraging business and job seeker clients to contribute their personal success stories to this initiative via the Illinois workNet Web site.

With WIA reauthorization on the horizon, awareness of our success is critical to the continuation of locally administered programs. Local Workforce Investment Board members and Chief Local Elected Officials are encouraged to contribute to this initiative as well.

In a welcome statement from the Illinois workNet Web site, David Stoecklin adds, “Each of Illinois’ 26 Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) has a local approach to the design and implementation of their workforce development systems. This customized approach enhances our

ability to mobilize a rapid response, to address challenges and leverage resources. Communicating the advantages of this approach to Congressional leaders responsible for reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is our goal, and you are an important part of that effort.”

“...Whether you are a business leader, recipient of services, Workforce Investment Board member or Chief Elected Official, we need to hear your story. The support of all who are involved in and benefit from the Illinois workNet Center system is critical to ensure meaningful changes, adequate funding and maximum flexibility in the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.”

For additional information about the WIA Works campaign, or to contribute your personal comments and story, visit the Illinois workNet Web site at: http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/WIA_Works/en/Home/. ♦

Message from Our Chairperson...

(Continued from page 2)

financial opportunity that not only benefits the participant but also greatly benefits our local economy. Please encourage the support of our Illinois congressional delegation for this important program.

Thank you — to the volunteers who assist area residents with their income tax preparation and counseling. The tax service is offered at our Marion One-Stop Business and Employment/Illinois workNet Partnership Center. The service is free to individuals with less than \$25,000 income and to families with income of \$50,000 or less. Thank you to everyone who came out to greet Governor Quinn and support the program announcing the beginning of this year's tax preparation service at our Marion Center on January 21st.

It is that time of year once again when you will soon find your Economic Interest Statement in your mailbox. The Williamson County Clerk's office either has or will mail the statements out shortly. Please remember to respond quickly as there are fines and penalties for filing late.

It is through your efforts and with your guidance that we continue to excel as the premier source for an array of workforce development information, programs and services, offered to our citizens and employers in Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, and Williamson counties. THANK YOU for your continued commitment and service. We greatly appreciate and value your leadership and contributions! ♦



PHOTO BY THERESA SMITH

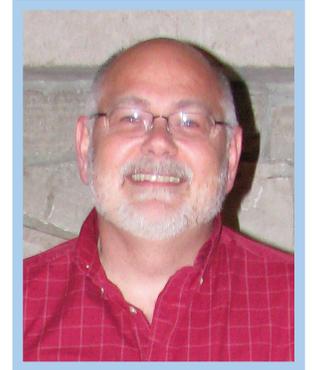
Spotlight On...

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES: DIVISION OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

BY ALAN SUMMERS,
DHS AND SIWIB ONE-STOP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) is comprised of six different divisions that provide an array of social services to residents of Illinois. One of these is the *Division of Human Capital Development*, whose mission is to help persons achieve independence and maximum self-sufficiency.

DHS: *Division of Human Capital Development* provides financial, medical, nutritional, homeless, childcare, crisis, refugee, immigration, employment and training assistance to low-income eligible Illinois residents. Individuals may apply for assistance by mail, in person, or via the Web at www.dhs.state.il.us.



ALAN SUMMERS

Financial assistance programs administered by DHS are available to persons who have little or no income. There are two primary programs serving two different populations: one, known as the *State Supplemental Payment*, for individuals who meet specific criteria to bring their income up to a specific level based on need, and the other, known as *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)*, for persons who are pregnant or have a dependent child or children.

The TANF program replaced the *Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)* program in 1997. TANF is not an entitlement program and is time-limited by law to no more than 60 months. During the program period, persons eligible for TANF are assisted in a variety of ways to ensure that they become self-sufficient through employment and training opportunities.

Medical programs administered by DHS are varied and eligibility is generally based upon an individual's age, level of income, and — in some circumstances — assets. To be eligible, a person must either: be pregnant, have dependent children living with them, be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Persons eligible for medical assistance usually have their medical needs covered by the medical card. Assistance may also include transportation to medical appointments, dental and vision care and long-term care in nursing or supported living facilities.

The *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance* program, formerly known as the *Food Stamp* program, helps persons who are under 133% of the Federal Poverty Level receive assistance in meeting their nutritional needs. Benefits are provided via an electronic benefit transfer card commonly known as LINK.

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LEFT: After launching the Tax Counseling Project in Marion, Governor Pat Quinn pauses for a photo with Man-Tra-Con Fiscal Specialist Monica Puckett, left, and CEO Kathy Lively.

SIWIB Committee Meeting Reports

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One-Stop Committee

The following is a summary of the October 13, 2009, December 8, 2009, January 12, 2010, and February 16, 2010, meetings:

Closures and Layoffs

Michelle Cerutti reported Everbrite/Neon's Trade application was approved. Man-Tra-Con held an intake session for eligible individuals in January 2010. Karen Laws reported several former employees have been called back to work.

Crownline is now under new ownership. Michelle reported 111 background checks have been performed and the company has hired 62 employees to date. Crownline has accepted 12 OJT positions and will continue up to 49 OJT positions. The company projects to hire 100 workers with an average starting wage of \$13.50 per hour.

Michelle Cerutti informed the committee funding is available for any On-the-Job training and Dislocated Worker short-term training programs that will end by June 30, 2010. Man-Tra-Con is currently out of Adult funds.

Man-Tra-Con conducted an informational workshop for the Illinois Education Association in Carterville on January 28, 2010.

GRANT UPDATE: SIONI Program

Gary Minnis provided the following update. The SIONI program was officially launched in January of 2010 at all six participating community colleges. Forty-three LPNs are now working toward completing their

(Continued at right)

Associate's degree in nursing through this unique hybrid-online nurse program.

Grant funds continue to support the SIONI coordinator and MSN scholarships for college faculty. A new grant application was submitted to DCEO late last year and DCEO has provided Connect SI a letter of intent to fund. This new grant will extend the SIONI Coordinator and MSN scholarships beyond the June 30th end date of the previous grant. Additional funds from the new grant will offset the college's faculty costs for delivering SIONI as well as provide simulation equipment for the nursing labs.

GRANT UPDATE:

Health Information Exchange

Plans for the implementation of a regional health information exchange in southern Illinois are well under way. The recently established Health Information Exchange of southern Illinois (HIESI) is helping to prepare healthcare providers in the 31 southernmost counties of Illinois to utilize full-functioning

Electronic Health Records (EHR) in order to reach the federal requirements for meaningful use of these EHRs.

The HIESI Steering Committee members continue to convene meetings of their peer groups to discuss issues such as privacy and security, patient identification, the type of data that should be exchanged, reporting requirements and the technical architecture that will be required to enable the information to be exchanged.

The Health Information Exchange of Southern Illinois is planning to visit with physicians and other healthcare providers from around the region to educate them on the meeting, meaningful use criteria and timelines, financial incentives and penalties, the numerous opportunities for technical assistance, and the vision of HIESI and the state of Illinois' HIE.

Illinois workNet

Cindy Webb reported *Job Search* and *Skills and Interests* were the most frequently

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Spotlight on... DHS: Division of Human Capital Development

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DHS also assists families with the cost of childcare. Parents whose income is within guidelines and who are working, attending school or receiving TANF may have their child care costs subsidized in this program. Depending upon their level of income, a co-payment is required which increases as the family income increases.

DHS currently manages 1,394,661 cases through various programs, which serve 2,764,187 persons in the state of Illinois. In the SIWIB service area of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry and Williamson counties, 30,988 cases are managed by DHS and 65,108 people are served monthly. ■



To learn more about the Department of Human Services, visit our Web site at www.dhs.state.il.us. From this Web site, a person can read about the various programs available, locate an office that serves their county of residence, complete a calculator of eligibility for SNAP, and even make application for cash, medical or SNAP assistance.

One Stop Committee

GRANT UPDATE: SIONI Program

(Continued from page 4)

accessed tools on Illinois workNet. Cindy also reported receiving positive feedback from customers about Illinois workNet workshops.

There were 157 new registrations in December 2009, and 230 new registrations in January 2010. New links have been added to Illinois workNet for the WIA Works campaign. The links will enable customers to post their own success stories.

MOU Status

Michelle Cerutti reported all but one of the required signatures for the MOU has been received. The MOU has been submitted pending a response.

New TAA/TGAAA Required Attendance Documentation

The new Trade program documentation requirements are in effect. Students are now required to have an instructors' signature for each course attended daily, rather than one instructor signature per day.

Tax Counseling Project

Cindy Webb reported Man-Tra-Con is once again hosting the Tax Counseling Project, sponsored by the Center for Economic Progress. This is the ninth year for the Tax Counseling Project. Tax service began January 23, 2010, and will run through April 15, 2010, at the Man-Tra-Con office in Marion. The hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The service is free for individuals with incomes of less than \$25,000 and for families with incomes of less than \$50,000. The first copy of the tax return is provided free of charge; a state-implemented fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each copy requested thereafter.

Area Profile Summary for LWA 25

BY MICHELLE CERUTTI,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MAN-TRA-CON CORPORATION

The following information represents an area profile summary for Local Workforce Area (LWA) 25 in Illinois. LWA 25 consists of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry and Williamson counties.

Population Totals

The population for LWA 25 in Illinois is estimated at 224,669 in 2010. The population for LWA 25 is estimated to be 225,568 in 2020. This represents a .4 percent projected increase from 2010.

Employment Wage Statistics

The average weekly wage for LWA 25 for the 1st quarter of 2009 was \$625. This would be equivalent to \$15.63 per hour, or \$32,500 per year, assuming a 40-hour work week for the year.

Unemployment Rates

(Area Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data)

The total civilian labor force (not seasonally adjusted) in LWA 25 for December of 2009 was 112,780, of which 101,008 were employed and 11,772 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 10.40 percent.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Distribution

Counties in Illinois with the highest unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in December of 2009 were Boone County, Illinois (17.3%), Winnebago County, Illinois (15.8%), Mason County, Illinois (15.7%), La Salle County, Illinois (15%), Putnam County, Illinois (14.4%), Kankakee County, Illinois (14.3%), Fayette County, Illinois (14.2%), Franklin County, Illinois (14.1%), Montgomery County, Illinois (14.1%), Ogle County, Illinois (14%) and Clark County, Illinois (14%). *(Continued on page 6)*

At the February 16, 2010 meeting, Cindy reported the Tax Counseling Project had processed close to \$1 million in returns.

Other

Michelle Cerutti proposed setting future One-Stop Committee meeting dates to be on the second Tuesday of each month through December 2010. The proposed meeting dates will be sent to the committee members electronically.

The committee approved a request from John A. Logan College to place a DVD entitled College Readiness for Career and

Technical Education Student in One-Stop Resource Rooms.

Cindy Webb is working on getting AccessSI.org up-to date over the next few months.

The weatherization project has been implemented. Debra Jackanicz reported the project is proceeding well, with the exception of some prevailing wage issues. LIHEAP funds are still available. The LIHEAP program is a one-time payment of \$250 to \$300 dependent upon an individual's eligibility.

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Area Profile Summary for LWA 25

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Occupations by Projected Growth

The table below shows the occupations with the highest estimated annual openings in LWA 25 for the years 2006 through 2016.

Occupation	2006 Estimated Employment	2016 Projected Employment	2006-2016 Annual Percent Change	Estimated Annual Openings
Registered Nurses ★	2,035	2,403	1.68%	37
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food ★	1,603	1,956	2.01%	35
Retail Salespersons ★	3,319	3,602	0.82%	28
Waiters and Waitresses ★	1,579	1,796	1.30%	22
Customer Service Representatives ★	1,124	1,317	1.60%	19
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	952	1,116	1.60%	16
Food Preparation Workers ★	931	1,088	1.57%	16
Home Health Aides ★	411	550	2.96%	14
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	1,126	1,264	1.16%	14
Postsecondary Teachers, All Other	854	987	1.46%	13

★ OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

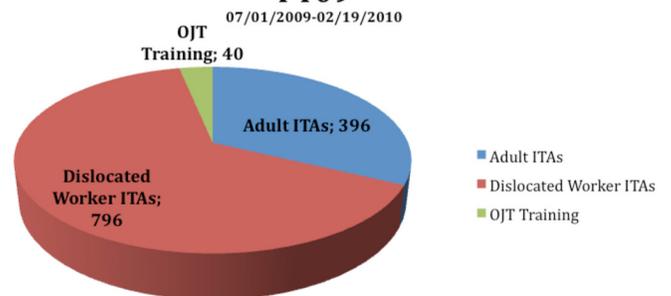
Industry Employment Distribution

In the 1st Quarter of 2009, a total of 2,209 employees were shown as located in LWA 25. Healthcare and Social Assistance was shown to be the largest major industry sector, at 46.2% employment, followed by Public Administration at 26.9% employment, and Transportation and Warehousing (48 & 49) at 24% employment.

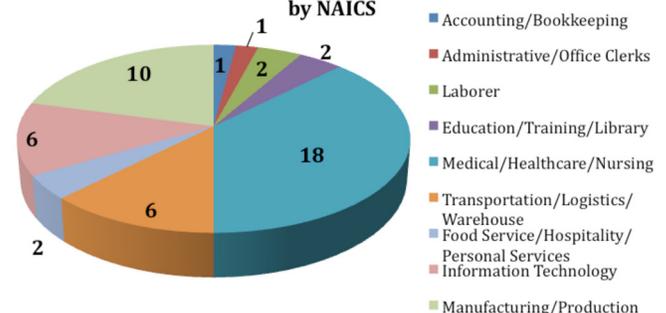
WIA Services Overview

From July 1, 2009, through February 19, 2010, One-Stop Business and Employment Centers in Marion and Mt. Vernon, and Man-Tra-Con's three offices in Carbondale, DuQuoin and West Frankfort administered services to a total of 6,509 customers. Currently, 1,192 customers are actively enrolled and receiving staff-assisted job search and/or training services. During this program year, \$898,573 has been spent on Occupational Training and Related Expenses (support). In addition, 159 customers ended a training program, 112 (70%) obtained a credential and 47 (30%) ended their training program without a credential. *(Continued on page 7)*

1,232 Received Training Services During PY09



December 2009 Graduates by NAICS



TOP RIGHT CHART: Represents the number of customers who received training services from 07/01/2009 through 02/19/2010.

BOTTOM RIGHT CHART: Current graduates who are enrolled in WIA services and seeking employment in the various sectors.

One Stop Committee

Other

(Continued from page 5)

Phil Minnis introduced Kay Fleming, associate dean of Adult Basic/Secondary Education. Kay was recently elected Chairperson of the John A. Logan College District APC.

Michelle Cerutti reported the Man-Tra-Con Center at John A. Logan College has moved. The center is now located in room C142/143.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on October 14, 2009, and December 9, 2010. The following is a summary of those meetings:

SummerWorks Update

Ms. Brewer-Coffey reported the State of Illinois extended the SummerWorks program until March 31, 2010. A flyer was sent to Rend Lake College and John A. Logan College to recruit participants. Two SummerWorks staff transitioned into full-time Adult program positions. As of the December 9th meeting, 347 youth were enrolled into the program.

Ms. Brewer-Coffey also reported on staffing changes within the SummerWorks department. Positions held by Rick Winters and Linda Bridges have ended. Cory Lenard and Brian Stoner have transitioned to the Adult program. Dorothy Porter is filling in for Melissa Cauthen while she is on leave.

PY09 Contracts Update

Ms. Brewer-Coffey reported receipt of signed PY09 contracts. Vouchers are being processed by the Fiscal Department. She also reported at the December 9th meeting that all service providers have met enrollment goals of 50% by October 31, 2009.

All but one service provider has met the 75% enrollment goal set for December 31, 2009. Echo is currently two enrollments away from the 75% enrollment goal and anticipates meeting this goal by the deadline date. Council members will be solicited in January for participation in discussions to develop the RFP for PY2010. ♦

Area Profile Summary for LWA 25

(Continued from page 6)

The OJT program offers a quick turn-around for individuals participating in the WIA program. The average length of a training program is approximately 640 hours, with an average starting wage of over \$12.00 per hour for these positions. In addition, most companies offer fringe benefits. Ninety-percent of OJT trainees successfully complete the program, resulting in a 95% "Entered Employment" rate (*participants who have a job during the first quarter after they have left WIA services*) and a 78% "Retention" rate (*participants who have a job during the first quarter after they have left WIA services and still have a job six to nine months later*).

The OJT program is one of the main and most often requested services we offer to businesses in our community. Economic developers in our region are well versed on this particular service. They rely heavily on this program as a possible solution for businesses who are hoping to expand, and they quantify company savings should the business need to hire more staff. The businesses we serve range in size from small, with as few as 3 employees, to large companies employing as many as 2,250 employees. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 18, 2010

Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board

5:30 p.m. at the One-Stop Business & Employment Center in Marion, Illinois

MARCH 23, 2010

Board Development Committee

12:30 p.m. at the Man-Tra-Con Office 120 Southtowne Shopping Center in DuQuoin, Illinois

JUNE 17, 2010

Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board

5:30 p.m. at the Man-Tra-Con Office 120 Southtowne Shopping Center in DuQuoin, Illinois

SEPTEMBER 16, 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>