



The latest news from  
The Southwest Ohio Region  
Workforce Investment Board

# NEWSWIB

April 2013

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## *Ohio to see big cut in workforce funds from sequestration*

Sequestration - automatic budget cuts -- went into effect on March 1; its impact is just now starting to be felt. The federal budget cuts amount to \$85 billion for Fiscal Year 2013, split between defense and domestic spending. Workforce training and investment nationally is taking a hit of approximately \$460 million, according to the [National Skills Coalition \(NSC\)](#).

[Department of Labor](#) projections show a big bite coming out of Ohio workforce funds - a 13.4% reduction in Local Area Funds, from \$79 million for the current program year to \$69 million for the program year beginning July 1. To manage these reductions, the [SWORWIB](#) has adopted a "limited funds" policy, which prioritizes who will get services given limited funding. SuperJobs Director **Kevin Holt** estimates that this will mean 300 fewer job seekers and employers would be served next year.

"Sequestration is not an abstract concept," said **Sherry Kelley Marshall**, President/CEO of the SWORWIB. "These funding cuts mean fewer opportunities for people to prepare themselves for a job search or enroll in classes to learn new skills, skills to help them get back into the workforce."

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## *P2E Cincinnati class completes classroom training*

Some have already found jobs



*P2E participants celebrate on the last day of class.*

There were smiles, hugs and handshakes as the **Platform to Employment** class ended its five weeks of training at the [SuperJobs Center](#) on April 4. Strangers to each other a few weeks before, the classmates bantered like lifetime friends, cheering each other on as they accepted their certificates.

The class was composed primarily of people 50 years and older who had been out of work for at least six months. The program, designed by [The WorkPlace](#), the Workforce Investment Board in southwest Connecticut, expanded this year to Cincinnati - and nine other cities - thanks to grants from the [Walmart Foundation](#), [AARP Foundation](#) and [Citi Community Development](#).

"This program restored my confidence," said **Joy Lovejoy**, whose job in communications was eliminated in November 2010. "I picked up lots of tips and tricks I can use." A LinkedIn tip helped Lovejoy determine whom to contact for a job she wanted to apply for.

The classes emphasized job hunting, work readiness and computer skills necessary in today's challenging job market. Financial and behavioral counseling was also available to participants and their families. Several participants had already obtained employment with local employers, and others had been out on multiple interviews.

The SWORWIB arranged for the P2E participants to get "suited up" for interviews -- the men through the Urban League's [Suit Yourself Gentlemen's Clothing Closet](#) and the women through [Dress for Success Cincinnati](#).

"I appreciate you sticking with this program and coming every day," said **Carol Sorenson Williams**, P2E's instructor, to the class. "This is a journey - it doesn't stop here."

Sorenson Williams will continue to work with participants to help them obtain internships or employment. In Connecticut, the subsidized internships sometimes led to permanent jobs.

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## *Big turnout at SuperJobs for Veterans Job Fair*

[Lowe's](#) knows why it pays to hire veterans: "Veterans have a good work ethic and are dependable," said **Trisha Cassidy Nash**, Human Resources Manager at Lowe's. Lowe's was among 33 employers that set up stations for a Veterans Job Fair at the SuperJobs Center April 4. "Their military skill set translates well for Lowe's," said one of her colleagues.

**Derrick Dunn**, who served in the Air Force and Army Reserve, was one of many veterans hoping to find work. He was laid off in 2011 as a dispatcher. "Now I need to find something to pay the bills," he said. **Marisa Lengerich**, who served as an intelligence analyst in the Air Force from 2009-13, hopes to find a job in business or hospital administration. She is fluent in Arabic, too, and may go back to school to get her MBA. **Willie McCarter** served in the Marines, and would like to find a job as a custodial manager. "I've talked to a few people here," he said as he walked from table to table introducing himself.



*Marisa Lengerich, right, talks to a Siemens representative at the Veterans Job Fair at the SuperJobs Center.*

The Veterans Jobs Fair was a collaborative effort of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services [Veterans Services](#), the SuperJobs Center and the [SWORWIB](#). About 170 veterans attended the job fair during the morning session, which was dedicated to vets, while another 300 attended the afternoon session, which was open to the public.

## *SWORWIB partners on .NET developer training*

As Greater Cincinnati carves out its newest career pathway in Information Technology, the CIO Roundtable, SWORWIB, and [Partners for a Competitive Workforce](#) joined forces to begin a .NET Developer training class open to dislocated workers who might have the aptitude for a career in IT.

A recruitment fair was held April 8 at the SuperJobs Center, and almost 50 job seekers attended. To be selected for the program, which will entail 330 hours of classwork from May through August, candidates must score at least a four on the Applied Math Work Keys, and 80% on the aptitude test administered by [MAX Technical Training](#), which was selected by the CIO Roundtable to teach the class.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the quality of the applicants we saw," said **Barb Ferry**, Divisional Assistant Vice President at [Great American Insurance Group](#), one of the employers at the Recruitment Fair. Great American believes in this "grow your own" approach to IT talent, said **Greg Witzgall**, Divisional Vice President. "We have had a hard time getting new talent into IT, and we want people who will work with us for 10 or more years. There are not enough candidates coming out of college."



*Ed Dunn, right, learns about IT job opportunities from a Paycor representative.*

**Ed Dunn** was working in corporate real estate when he was downsized in 2008. He has some background in IT but wants to learn the new skills and applications that this class would provide. "This would be extremely valuable training for me," he said after he spoke with a representative from [Paycor](#).

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## *Short takes*

City Youth Commission releases RFP for comprehensive research project



*Yvette Simpson, center in orange blouse, and members of the Youth Commission.*

Cincinnati Council Member **Yvette Simpson** and leaders from the [Youth Commission of Cincinnati](#) held a press conference April 9 at City Hall to [announce](#) the release of a request for proposal to conduct a groundbreaking study on the state of Cincinnati's youth. This [RFP](#), released by the City of Cincinnati on April 2, 2013, seeks a vendor to complete the research. Focusing on six major factors of Cincinnati youth life -- crime; poverty and homelessness; education; workforce development; health; and developmental opportunities -- this study will analyze the interrelationship among and impact of these factors on our young people, Simpson said at the press conference. Bidders must respond by May 2 to the RFP. **President Marshall** is a member of the Youth Commission, and **Kathleen Williams**, Youth and Public Information Coordinator, serves as her proxy at meetings.

### Youth providers commit to Connecting the Dots

Connecting the Dots, the project to connect foster care youth to WIA services, is moving ahead in Hamilton County. All five current SWORWIB youth services providers - [Cincinnati State](#), [CYC/Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates](#); [Easter Seals TriState](#), [Lighthouse Youth Services](#), [Literacy Center West](#) - have agreed to enroll a total of 100 foster care youth with the goal of enrolling most by June 30. Hamilton County/Area 13 was one of five areas in Ohio selected for the pilot project. The broad goals of the program, which is funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, include: Help the foster care youth to develop soft skills; help them graduate from high school or earn their GED; set education and career goals and enroll them in post-secondary education or a job training program; prepare them for entry to the workforce. [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati](#) are partners in the program, and will provide mentors for each youth.

In a recent letter announcing the new program, ODJFS Director **Michael Colbert** said: "The best part about this effort is that relatively small investments can make a very big difference. Each year in America, more than 24,000 teens leave foster care without being adopted. Research shows that providing better support to those young adults would save more than \$5.7 billion over their lifetime."

### CWA Local 4400 leadership earn IC3 and NCRC credentials



Recently, the SWORWIB worked with [CWA/NETT Academy](#) to provide training to members of Communication Workers of America laid off by Cincinnati Bell. Many of those dislocated workers earned a [National Career Readiness Certificate](#)(NCRC) as well as national credentials in [Fiber Optics Installation](#) or Internet and [Computer Core Certification](#) (IC3). The success for these members led the [Local 4400](#) leadership to demonstrate their own commitment to the importance of keeping skills up to date. These officers have all earned the IC3 and most have also earned the NCRC. From left: **Craig Foster**, Executive Vice

President; **Steve Cruse**, Area Vice President Central; **Steve Elmore**, Area Vice President Northwest; **Beverly**

**Paganelli**, Administrative Assistant; **Cynthia Manning**, Area Vice President; **Dwayne Phillips**, President; **Mary Wentz**, Secretary-Treasurer, and **Matt Skidmore**, Area Vice President Southeast.

## In the news

Frisch's [partnership](#) with River City helps felons get back on track

JCG [celebrates](#) 30 years

Dislocated workers [sought](#) for .NET training

Finneytown's Marshall [recognized](#) with national award

SWORWIB [receives](#) national award

SuperJobs' business services [showcased](#) on city's cable channel

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