

SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

NewsWIB April 2015

Spotlight on OhioMeansJobs Center

African American Firefighters Team with OMJ Center

In an effort to assist potential recruits for the next Cincinnati firefighter's class, the African American Firefighters Association has teamed with OMJ Cincinnati-Hamilton County to assist potential candidates with the civil service exam. In addition to assisting with the test, recruiter Willie Jones is working hard to educate the public as to what is required to be a firefighter. As Mr. Jones stated to the first group of candidates, "You need heart and commitment." What Willie did not say was that you had to be 6 foot 3 inches tall and two-hundred pounds, which is not true. Mr. Jones is trying very hard to stop the misconception that females are not suited for a career as a firefighter.

What Does a Firefighter Look Like?



Pictured Left to Right: Firefighters Ayisha Jones, Danni Allen, and Keisha Terry

Ayisha, Danni and Keisha are now firefighters who went through the classes held at OMJ two years ago and have started their careers as Cincinnati Firefighters.

The Cincinnati Fire Department is a very diverse comradery committed to keeping the residents of Cincinnati safe. Introductory sessions on what it takes to become a Cincinnati Firefighter are held Saturdays from 9am-12pm in April and May (4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9) at the OhioMeansJobs Center, 1916 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, call 513-946-7200.

Spotlight on Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Career Fair



The second Annual Apprenticeship Career Fair presented information on 10 apprenticeship programs. Over 228 attendees came from the community, local organizations and surrounding high schools.



Leshawn Smith, Chris Fridel and Adam Gordon



Dontae Dean and Chris Fridel

On April 8 the Greater Cincinnati Apprenticeship Council held a Career Fair at the IBEW/NECA Electrical Center on Glenway Avenue in Cincinnati in partnership with the Cincinnati Building Trades Unions, the SWORWIB and OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County. Morning and afternoon sessions were held so that participants could learn firsthand information about which trade apprenticeship would be the best fit for their futures.

Apprenticeships offer individuals the 'other 4-year degree without the student loan debt.' "They pay top wages in their industry, offer many benefits such as healthcare and retirement plans, and provide an opportunity to learn and obtain college credit," explained Chris Fridel of the IBEW, and a board member of the SWORWIB and recently appointed as the Emerging Workforce Committee Chair.

Currently, construction programs in Greater Cincinnati are recruiting to fill hundreds of apprenticeship positions. But, construction is not the only trade to pursue. Apprenticeships are offered through the Apprenticeship Council for Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Electricians, Millwrights, Pipefitters, Sheet Metal and Iron Workers, Engineers and Telecommunications/Technicians. Visit www.EarnandLearn.com for more information.

Spotlight on SWORWIB

National Volunteer Week April 12-18

President Marshall would like to thank the SWORWIB Board, Officers, Committee Members and Volunteers for their services to the SWORWIB Board and Committees, special projects and special assistance to our youth and adult customers as well as their support, advice and commitment to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's employers, youth, dislocated and adult customers and those with disadvantages and barriers. Their time, attention, effort and dedication contributed significantly to the SWORWIB's recognition as an innovative and effective workforce board in Ohio and nationally.

The new Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act prompted the SWORWIB to create two different Request for Proposals Evaluation Teams (one for youth proposals and one for On-Stop proposals in response to the law's procurement requirements. The volunteers who served on the evaluation teams are completing their work on the Youth RFP or starting their work on the One-Stop RFP, which is a significant undertaking.

In addition, there are new committees that must be organized, which will focus on specific aspects of work required under WIOA. These new committees are highlighted below:

- **Emerging Workforce Committee** - a redirected youth committee without the prescriptive federal membership requirements but still focused on oversight of our youth service providers and their performance metrics, introducing providers and youth to career pathways and other resources in our community to assist them to succeed in education and obtaining work experience, as well as our exploring additional sources of funding for our youth customers.
- **One-Stop Business Engagement Committee** - we had the foresight to develop and maintain a Business Engagement Team for the last six years that conducted periodic surveys of our board members relative to use of WIA services for employers and other volunteer activities. But now the new law recommends every WIB to have this committee, aimed at connecting our employer members to overseeing the performance metrics of the one-stop center, while also exploring use of services and volunteer activities such as leading workshops, conducting practice interviews and hosting employer and industry information sessions, as well as sharing employer assessments and methodologies for recruitment and onboarding technologies and techniques.
- **OMJ4PWD - OhioMeansJobs for People with Disabilities** - a new committee to assist the one-stop center in serving people with disabilities in partnership with other service agencies and the required partner, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD, a state agency with local operations). Similarly, OMJ4PWD will review the performance for serving people with disabilities, help the OMJ team become familiar with all the resources available in the community and provide advice to the board about assistive devices needed in the OMJ Center.
- **Eligible Training Provider (ETP) Evaluation Committee** - a new committee to help us fulfill the extended obligations of the Board under WIOA relative to not just evaluating the ETPs we invested funds in to train our suitable customers, but also conduct a comparative analysis of their non WIOA-funded students to ascertain if WIOA funded students are doing at least as well as other funded-students, and to also publically post the results of our evaluation of our performance measures (completion, industry credential and/or college credit, employment and employment at a livable wage or higher, as well as cooperation with complaints, concerns and refunds).

Spotlight on Youth

Cincinnati Youth Collaborative Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates



Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates Program held its 32nd Annual Career Development Conference (CDC) and awards luncheon on Thursday, April 23rd at Sharonville Convention Center. In morning sessions, over 300 JCG students attended and participated in interactive workshops with career coaches from the business community, including AT&T, who is a national partner with Jobs for America's Graduates.

Students then demonstrated their etiquette skills at a formal lunch where all of the citywide competition winners were announced. JCG students from Aiken New Tech, Finneytown, North College Hill, Oyer, Purcell Marian, R. A. Taft Information Technology, Western Hills University, Winton Woods, Withrow University, and Woodward Career Technical high schools had previously competed in: Public Speaking, Students for Service, Cover Design, Applications, Employment Testing, Telephone Techniques, Interviewing, Decision Making, Team Challenge, and Visual Display.

The competition awarded the top three youth in each category. The following WIA youth received awards: **PUBLIC SPEAKING** - 2nd place, **Anastasia Moore**, Western Hills University and 3rd place, **Stevontay Davis**, Taft Information Technology; **STUDENTS FOR SERVICES** - 1st place, **Sahara Johnson-Moore**, Taft Information Technology and 3rd place, **Lamesha Franklin**, Oyer; **COVER DESIGN** - 2nd place, **Romain Mayambi**, Aiken New Tech; **TELEPHONE TECHNIQUES** - 3rd place (tie), **Kyla Perry**, North College Hill and **Tasha Thomas**, Aiken New Tech; **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS TESTING** - 1st place, Brandon Collier, Oyer; **DECISION MAKING** - 2nd place, **Andrew Dean**, Aiken New Tech and 3rd place, **Isiah Shim**, Woodward Career Technical; **INTERVIEWING** - 1st place, **Ravea Thomas**, Woodward Career Technical and 2nd place, **Isis Williams**, Aiken New Tech; **TEAM CHALLENGE** - 2nd place, **Starr Thomas**, Western Hills University. A special **SPIRIT AWARD** went to **Maliya Banks** from Withrow University and a **MACY'S** sponsored award went to **Sahara Johnson-Moore** from Taft Information Technology.

The 1st place citywide winners from each event will go to Columbus on Monday May 4th and compete at the Jobs for Ohio's Graduates CDC with students from across Ohio. The SWORWIB congratulates our winners and wishes them good luck in the State competition.

ODJFS Youth Vendor Training



In-school and out-of-school youth are served by several vendors in Cincinnati-Hamilton County. These opportunity youth require myriad services that provide them with housing, transportation, prep for high school diploma and certificate completion, job acquisition, internships and more.

Tracking these youth can be a challenge as they will often enter, exit and re-enter services as their lives hit various obstacles. More importantly, the system in which they are tracked is detailed and complex. In order to provide our youth vendors with the most up-to-date technical skills, Bob Haas from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services generously offered to visit the SWORWIB location at Great Oaks and deliver training to providers and staff of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties arranged, sponsored and hosted by the SWORWIB (Area #13).

On December 18, 2014 Bob presented a session on data management for Literacy/Numeracy progress/gains in the Ohio Workforce Case Management System (OWCMS). And, on March 30, 2015 Bob presented a second session on Discoverer reports, which vendors can generate as needed to view a detailed status of individual youth in the system.

More than 50 county and WIB personnel and vendor staff from Cincinnati Youth Collaborative/Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates, Cincinnati State, Easter Seals Tri-State, Lighthouse Youth Services, and Santa Maria Community Services/Literacy Center West attended the sessions.

Short Takes:

Tax Prep Saturdays Update - United Way volunteers (certified through VITA) and hosted at the OhioMeansJobs Center Cincinnati - Hamilton County served local citizens with the completion and filing of their 2014 tax returns. 191 income tax returns for current and prior years were processed generating refunds totaling \$189,618 (Federal) and \$27,353 (State).

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

The SWORWIB has a [Facebook](#) page where we post news, pictures, events and up-to-date information. Also, follow us on Twitter @CincyWorkforce and we'll keep you informed throughout the month!

To make donations to the SWORWIB in support of Southwest Ohio workforce initiatives, click [Here](#).

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Cincinnati -
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