



The latest news from The Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board

August 2010 Vol 2, Issue 8

Greetings!

Arbor E&T, manager of the <u>SuperJobs Center</u>, again exceeded its contracted goal for employment placements in the program year that ended June 30, 2010.

Although unemployment in Hamilton County hovered at the 10 percent mark for most of year, SuperJobs staff was able to place 2,150 job seekers, says **Sherry Kelley Marshall** President/CEO of the SWORWIB. Arbor was contracted to place 2,082 workers.

Of those, 1,402 were universal customers, and 680 were Adult and Dislocated Workers as defined by the Workforce Investment Act. The 2,150 compares to 2,239 in 2008-09.

Although job placement continued to be a challenge, the rate of layoffs slowed in 2010, notes **Vivian Alexander**, SuperJobs Center Director since late February 2010. The SuperJobs Center had 13,468 new registrants, compared to almost 25,000 the previous year.

The SJC also ramped up its training enrollments this year, enrolling 523 people in training, compared to 411 the previous year.

The <u>Business Services team</u> at SuperJobs worked with 231 employers in 2009-10, exceeding its goal of 192.

"It's obvious that the recovery is a slow one," says Marshall, "and employers are not hiring in significant numbers. Given that, we're pleased that the team at SuperJobs worked diligently to ensure that many people got into retraining to better prepare them for the workforce, and that we have strong relationships with many employers to help put our jobseekers in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to work."

State performance measure reports are delayed by three months, but the SuperJobs Center expects to meet or exceed the State of Ohio WIA performance measures for adult and dislocated workers this year and should receive the statewide evaluations by early October.

LATEST NEWS & NOTES

CINCINNATI STATE, SINCLAIR
PARTNER ON BIO-OHIO PROGRAMS
BUILD YOUR FUTURE SETS UP
CONSTRUCTION CLUBS
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SHORT TAKES

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SWORWIB

All meetings held at SuperJobs Center, 1916 Central Parkway, unless otherwise

Sept 3: Emerging Workforce Development Council, 8:30-10 a.m.

Nov. 18: Board meeing, 8 - 10 a.m.

SUPERJOBS

All meetings held at SuperJobs Center unless otherwise noted.

Orientation for new job seekers, 9-11 a.m. **Mondays.**

Orientation also held 1-2 p.m. **Tuesdays**, Jordan Crossing location, Community Action Agency, 1740 Langdon Farm Road

TABE testing, 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Job Club, 9-11 a.m. Wednesdays

Resume Writing, 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays

Computer Basics, 10:30 a.m.-noon Wednesdays

Interviewing, 9-10 a.m., Thursdays

Networking workshop, 9-10 a.m. Fridays

WORKFORCE RESOURCES

<u>SuperJobs.com</u>: Help for job seekers and employers at the SuperJobs Center

Hamilton County Job and Family Services

Ohio's Workforce Information Center

CINCY STATE, SINCLAIR LAUNCH BIO CAREER PROGRAMS

The problem: Pharmaceutical and medical device companies in Ohio said that they had jobs going begging and couldn't find enough workers with the kinds of sophisticated skills they need now and in the future. And although Ohio has plenty of dislocated workers, few of them have the skills necessary to step into these growing industries.

The goal: Retrain 660 displaced or underemployed workers in declining industries across Ohio for careers in biotechnical or biomedical fields.

The solution: New certification programs and an Associate Degree in bioscience to be offered at six community colleges in Ohio, thanks to a \$5 million Department of Labor grant.



Cincinnati State Technical and
Community College and Sinclair Community College are partners in this effort in Southwest Ohio. Project Managers Jim Kleemeier at Cincinnati State and Brenda Latanza at Sinclair are working feverishly to get the classes up and running later this fall.

"A regional Employers Council (see list below) is helping us develop our curriculum to make sure we align it with their needs," says Kleemeier.

The grant was awarded in March to <u>BioOhio</u>, a non-profit based in Columbus that promotes the bioscience industry, research and education, to help fund its <u>Bioscience Industry Workforce Preparedness Project</u>. More than \$2.8 million of the \$5 million grant is designated for tuition reimbursement and trainee scholarships, notes **Dr. Dennis Ulrich**, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Center at Cincinnati State.

The colleges will work with one-stops in their regions to identify candidates for the classes, says Latanza.

"We are excited about this opportunity to work with Cincinnati State and Sinclair on this new career path," says Sherry Kelley Marshall of the SWORWIB. "These industries typically offer high-paying jobs, so this can be a real opportunity for dislocated workers who want to relaunch their careers.

Those interested in finding out more should contact Kleemeier, <u>james.kleemeier@cincinnatistate.edu</u>, 513-569-4955, or Latanza, <u>brenda.latanza@sinclair.edu</u>, 937-512-5505.

Companies on the Employers Council include: Alkermes, Amylin Ohio, AtriCure, Barr Labs/Duramed, Camargo, Dimco Gray, Enable Medical Technologies, Ethicon Endosurgery, Eurand, Ganeden, Girindus, Hill Top Research, IMDS, Meridian Bioscience, Norwood Medical, Patheon, Prasco, RAM Medical Solutions, and The Rogosin Institute.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

United Way 211: Information on health and human services

Latest on Ohio's labor market

Latest on <u>U.S. labor market</u>

SWORWIB'S MISSION

We will create, develop, and maintain a comprehensive workforce development system that engages the entire community towards ever-increasing levels of self-sufficiency.

The SWORWIB drives policy, direction and funding oversight for the public workforce investment system in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

The SWORWIB promotes employment through jobseeker and employer services, training and education, workforce readiness preparation and economic development.

For more information on the SWORWIB, click <u>here</u>.

BUILD YOUR FUTURE PLANS CONSTRUCTION CLUBS AT CPS

After successful participation in Cincinnati Public Schools' 5th Quarter, Build Your Future, the SWORWIB's middle school outreach program, is planning a busy year, says **Anne Mitchell**, coordinator for the program.

As in the 5th Quarter, kids will get actual hands-on building experience, Mitchell says. Build Your Future is setting up an after-school Construction Club, starting with two schools per quarter, a total of eight schools over the course of the year.

"We want students to see the process of construction in the order that the stages occur," she adds. "Each club will build a structure on a 4X4 skid. The students will receive a set of plans to begin, and will participate in the building process over the course of eight weeks."

Over the eight weeks, the students will work on everything from site preparation to mixing concrete and pouring the foundation, building a brick wall, constructing a frame wall, pipefitting for electrical and plumbing work, wiring, drywalling and painting.



Students from Hoffman Middle School fit pipes during CPS's 5th Quarter.

Volunteers from <u>Associated Builders and</u> <u>Contractors</u> will lead the project, Mitchell says. First up are Ethel Taylor and Quebec Heights middle schools.

Build Your Future is a middle school outreach program funded by a <u>Spirit of Construction grant</u> that exposes students to the rewards of a career in construction and stresses the importance of good math and language skills, and the necessity of graduating from high school.

HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMPLETES STRATEGIC PLAN

The Emerging Workforce Development Committee also has news on the <u>Construction Careers Pathway</u> front: Its High School Committee just completed its 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, says **Nicole Ware**, EWDC Coordinator.

In the coming academic year, the committee plans to reach out to 5,500 high school students and 250 out-of-school youth. Students will be introduced to construction as a viable career option, through such venues as a speakers' bureau, job shadowing, fairs, exhibits and other activities. Professionals from the construction trade will connect with students through these venues, and social media such as Twitter and Facebook will get the message out.

The High School Committee is chaired by Joe Hummel, <u>Allied Construction Industries</u> and a member of the SWORWIB; <u>Allison Lyons</u> and <u>Tonya Beesley, Baker Concrete Construction Co.</u>; <u>West Davis, Woodward Career Technical High School</u>; <u>Steven Denier, Denier Electric Co.</u>; <u>Lee Groh, Turner Construction Co.</u>; <u>Cynthia Price</u>, <u>Alternative to Business</u>; <u>Jon Quatman, Great Oaks</u>; <u>Roger Seifried</u>, <u>Tech Prep</u>; <u>Ty Stuckey</u>, <u>TYS Construction</u>; and Nicole Ware, facilitator.

SHORT TAKES: GCWN SURVEY; HR REPORT OPTIMISTIC; 99ERS IN OHIO

SKILLS GAP A CONCERN: Employers expect to face increasing difficulty in finding qualified workers in the future, according to a survey of Tri-State employers recently conducted by the <u>Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network</u>. Employers are also concerned about the lack of basic competencies in some of their workforce, ranging from poor time management skills to lack of initiative to poor organizational skills.

More than 120 employers participated in the survey. "The SuperJobs Center sent requests to a number of our employer partners to complete the survey," says Sherry Kelley Marshall. For full results, click here.

HR REPORT OPTIMISTIC: Human resource professionals are somewhat upbeat about the U.S. job market, according to the Labor Market Outlook Report by the <u>Society of Human Resource</u> <u>Management</u>. The report indicates 56 percent of respondents expect job growth for the third quarter of 2010; 49 percent are somewhat optimistic about job growth in the United States, and another 7 percent are very optimistic and anticipate job growth during the quarter.

PAY RAISES IN 2011: U.S. employers plan to give raises in 2011, according to Mercer's 2010/2011 U.S. Compensation Planning Survey. Just 2% of companies plan to freeze salaries in 2011, compared with 13% in 2010 and 31% in 2009. Of the employers projecting to grant base salary pay increases, the average increase is expected to be 2.9% in 2011.

IN THE NEWS: Nearly 15,000 Ohio workers have exhausted all 99 weeks of unemployment benefits and their numbers are expected to rise, the Cleveland Plain Dealer recently reported. And by the end of August, that number will rise by another 7,000, reports the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Click here.

Regional jobless rate drops in July. Click here.

O'dell Owens is eager to take the reins at Cincinnati State. Click here.

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