

SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The latest news from
The Southwest Ohio Region
Workforce Investment Board

NEWSWIB

December 2014

*Happy Holidays
From the SWORWIB Team*



SWORWIB New Year Open House!

We will start the New Year hosting an Open House on January 26, 2015 from 3pm-5pm. Please stop by to see our new offices at Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development, Instructional Resource Center, Room 102, 3254 E. Kemper Road, Cincinnati OH 45241. Directions to the Instructional Resource Center can be found at <http://www.greatoaks.com/sites/highschool/Campuses/Scarlet%20Oaks/Documents/Scarlet%20Oaks%20Map.pdf>. The Instructional Resource Center is the first building on the right.

Spotlight on Employers

Actavis

(formerly Forest Pharmaceuticals)

Actavis (formerly Forest Pharmaceuticals) is in the midst of launching a massive effort to add jobs to the State of Ohio. OhioMeansJobs - Cincinnati/Hamilton County responded accordingly offering help with On-the-Job Training (OJT) grant programs, Learn to Earn and Job Creation Tax Credits.

Shari Strunk, Sr. HR Manager, shared her appreciation by commenting that she "truly appreciates the wealth of assistance that is being offered. I really feel there is a 'team' available to help us with this project. Representatives from the OMJ Center, State of Ohio and Hamilton County Job and Family Services worked together to make us aware of every program that may be beneficial to our company. As an employer with a vested interest in keeping jobs in the state, it is encouraging to know that assistance is offered and available. The team I mentioned above has been outstanding in helping to secure funding, source potential candidates and provide avenues such as hiring events and support such events. I am truly grateful for the aid we have received. It is clear to me that the State of

Ohio and Hamilton County are 100% invested in helping keep jobs in Ohio, helping unemployed people secure jobs and assisting companies in their efforts. I could not ask for a better partner!"

Actavis has all of their open positions available at www.ohiomeansjobs.com.

Spotlight on Workforce



The Butler/Clermont/Warren Workforce Investment Board and the SWORWIB are coordinating an Aerospace and Manufacturing Job Fair on Thursday, January 29, 2015, from 10am-2pm at the Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Cincinnati OH 45236. The Job Fair is co-sponsored by the office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown; the OhioMeansJobs centers of Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Montgomery and Warren counties; Warren County Port Authority and TechSolve. The event is available to employers at **NO** cost.

Registration includes: free WiFi access; 8 foot table cloth; designated interview space; employer lounge; box lunch option; and electric access option.

Employers can register for this event at <http://www.swohioworkforce.com/Events.aspx>.

Industry Workforce Alliance Grant

Five regional economic and workforce development organizations won two-year grants from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) to help unemployed and underemployed Ohioans find work and build careers in growing industries.

The grants will support the Industry Workforce Alliance Pilot Initiative, a program that is funded with \$729,000 in incentive monies from the U.S. Department of Labor and matching funds from the Governor's Office of Health Transformation Innovation Fund. Ohio was one of only 15 states to receive the federal incentive dollars, which are awarded to states based on the performance of their adult education and job training programs.

Partners for a Competitive Workforce (PCW) is lead entity for the Southwest region of Ohio and will coordinate the \$243,000 grant. The SWORWIB is fiscal agent for this funding. The funding will focus on the growth industry of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics. Partners include OhioMeansJobs centers for Brown Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties, Cincinnati State Community College and Butler Technology and Career Center.

The Industry Workforce Alliance is designed to address the critical workforce needs of employers and coordinate solutions that benefit business and workers. The primary focus of this initiative is to generate discussion around comprehensive improvements to the workforce system, utilizing career pathways to better align training to individual skills and interests, and workforce success measures to track and evaluate impact.

Marshall Presents at Greater Cincinnati Human Resources Meeting

President Marshall shared her expertise regarding the ACT WorkKeys/National Career Readiness Credential (NCRC) at the "Hot Topics and Best Practices" seminar sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Human Resources Association (GCHRA) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blue Ash on December 9, 2014. Marshall facilitated multiple roundtable sessions on "Measuring Work Readiness for Tomorrow's Jobs." Other session topics included:



Conducting Interviews Through Technology; Expanding Your Candidate Pool; Incorporating Big Data in the Recruiting Plan; and The Coming Talent War - Are You Prepared.

Each session featured interactive discussions around the challenges and best practices for today's Human Resource professionals.

Spotlight on Ohio Workforce Data Sources

On December 12, 2014, Governor Kasich's Office of Workforce Transformation announced that the Workforce Success Measures dashboard is live and available at www.measures.workforce.ohio.gov/about.aspx. Information on the performance of the workforce entities throughout Ohio can now be accessed at the State Jobs Ohio regions, county and program levels.

The Office of Workforce Transformation worked with Ohio State University and other agencies to develop the dashboard in order to collate data for the funding streams currently providing workforce and education services - the **Workforce Investment Act**, **Adult Basic & Literacy Education**, the **Carl Perkins Act - adult career technical education programs**, and State Financial Aid and Scholarships for higher education - including the **Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG)** and **Choose Ohio First Scholarship**.

This tool provides comprehensive performance data as well as information on regional and state trends to all interested parties as well as the general public. Access to dashboards from other areas of the state allow the viewer to identify counties that might be trending up and serving as role models for other areas. The intent of the dashboard is to stimulate dialogue and share successes, particularly across counties of similar size and economic makeup.

Note that the most recent data reflected is for 2011-2012 and will be updated as soon as more current information is analyzed and reported.

Spotlight on Rapid Response *Rock Tenn Transition Center*

Rock Tenn of Oakley recently requested Rapid Response services from the SWORWIB. The Rock Tenn Transition Center opened its doors on Monday, November 23, 2014 to employees seeking transition services provided by the OhioMeansJobs Center and their contractor, LIFT. Rock Tenn employees are now participating in resume building, job searches and hiring events. Displaced individuals are also receiving pre re-employment training and coaching services.

Attendance has been higher than anticipated, especially during the end-of-year holiday season. To date, 47 of the 63 employees have used the Transition Center in less than a month; 37 employees have completed their National Career Readiness Credential (NCRC); 29 employees are enrolled into the Certified Production Technician program; 4 employees are enrolled into the Logistics Program; and 2 have confirmed jobs in December - one as a pipefitter at \$23/hour and another as a general laborer at \$16.63/hour.

National Network of Sector Partners Webinar

On December 3, 2014, President Marshall was asked to participate as a panelist for a webinar presented by the National Network of Sector Partners (NNSP). The webinar, "Sector Initiatives and Apprenticeships: Lessons from Partners for a Competitive Workforce" was hosted by Jack Mills, Director, NNSP and Jim Torrens, Program Manager, NNSP. Stephen Tucker, Senior Manager of Industry Partnerships, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, led the panel in presenting Cincinnati's new version of an employer-led manufacturing apprenticeship program. President Marshall highlighted the role of the workforce investment boards and OhioMeansJobs centers in Butler and Hamilton counties providing funding, recruitment and candidate assessment.

Other panelists were Jim Bax, Business Manager, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College; Jeff Hodges, Production Supervisor, Thyssenkrupp Bilstein; Sam Bellamy, Supervisor, American Fan; Dennis Beam, Associate Director of Business and Industry, Butler Technical & Career Development Center; and Chelsee Reece, Apprentice, American Fan.

Panelists discussed the unique features of the apprenticeship program designed for welders and machine operators and shared the requirements for participation in the program: 1) a High School Diploma/GED; 2) a Silver National Career Readiness Certificate; 3) a valid driver's license and reliable transportation; 4) pass a Drug Screen and background check; and 5) interview and complete a worksite tour with sponsor employers. Starting wage for apprentices is \$12/hour with wage progression.

Stephen Tucker thanked all of the panelists and commented that "the machine operator and welding apprenticeship programs are great examples of the vision and innovation we have in the leaders operating the workforce system in Southwest Ohio. This initiative required high levels of collaboration and partnerships and can be replicated by members of the National Network of Sector Partners."

In the News:

A new Public Service Announcement for Hiring Managers developed by OhioMeansJobs is available on YouTube. Watch the PSA on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBQs2fXlmLw&feature=youtu.be&list=UUogNK1sal0_UYzsRzUpGn3Q.

Read the article, *'Living Wage' getting hard to earn in low-skill jobs* in the Cincinnati Enquirer covering challenges of the unemployed and underemployed and supports provided through the OhioMeansJobs Center and Partners for a Competitive Workforce at <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/money/2014/11/16/low-wage-jobs/19154075>.

Short Takes:

The SWORWIB's 2013 Annual Report is the Tactic Bronze Award winner of the 2014 Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) Cincinnati Chapter, submitted by Kathleen Williams, former Public Information Coordinator at SWORWIB.

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!

Donations can be made to the SWORWIB to support Southwest Ohio workforce initiatives by contacting Sherry Kelley Marshall, President/CEO at smarshall@sworwib.org.

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