

NewsWIB December 2015

Happy Holidays



SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Spotlight on OMJ Center

*Veteran Services Collects Supplies
for CSR Academy Students
to Battle Cold and Flu Season*



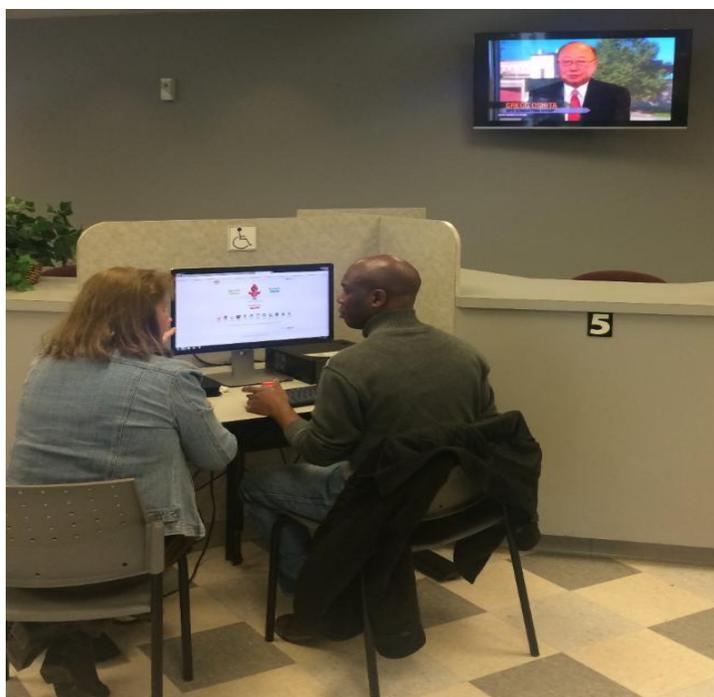
DVOP Bill Reese, VPM Matt Owens, DVOP Ethan Shafer & DVOP Heather Gemmell

ODJFS Veterans staff along with OMJ Center staff collected tissues, hand sanitizers and other germ fighting supplies to assist staff and students at the neighboring Cincinnati Speech and Reading (CSR) Academy fight off colds and flu bugs this winter season. With several area schools already closing their doors due to illness, these supplies will be put to good use at the Academy. The CSR Academy is located on Central Parkway in Over-the-Rhine. The Veterans staff also collected school supplies for CSR Academy students this fall.

Videos Now Showing in OMJ Center Lobby

The SWORWIB is providing customer, volunteer and core partners videos which will be available for viewing in the OMJ Center lobby.

Videos of a "walk-in" job seeker, a veteran and a dislocated worker tell their stories of how OMJ Center staff provided services that helped them find employment. In addition, an employer shares how the job center found employees their company needed to expand their business. Also, Gregg Oshita, SWORWIB board member and volunteer, shares his passion for providing ongoing workshops on job search strategies at the OMJ Center.



Development of videos highlighting core partners working at the jobs center will be in production soon.

Spotlight on the Tri-State

Tri-State Diversity Conference February 17-19, 2016



The 12th Annual Diversity Conference will be held February 17-19, 2016. The Pre-Conference will be held on February 17 and the Conference will be held February 18-19 at the Cincinnati Marriott Airport, on, Kentucky.

The conference goal is to learn more about ourselves and others, network and link resources to help integrate diversity into programs, policies and practices for creating community well-being.

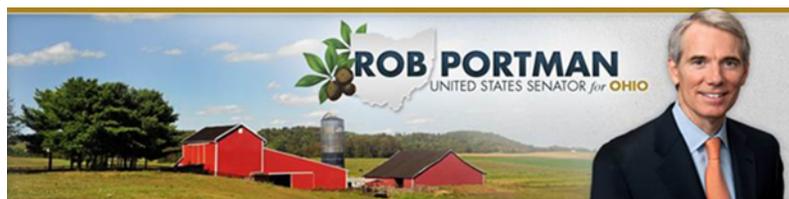
The Tri-State Diversity Conference is designed for:

- Educators, administrators, faculty and staff
- Corporate executives and managers
- Human resource professionals
- Non-profit organizations
- Health and social service professionals
- Extension personnel
- Others who want to empower greater diversity and cultural understanding in their communities

For more information on the conference, [click here](#) or contact Peggy Ehlers at 812.427.3152 or via email at pehlers@purdue.edu.

Spotlight on Employers

Portman Amendment Incentivizing Employers to Hire Long-Term Unemployed Ohioans



On December 16, 2015, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, announced that his amendment to the tax extenders bill making long-term unemployed Americans eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) was included in the end-of-year tax extenders package. Currently,

the WOTC provides an employer tax credit between \$1,200 and \$9,600 per employee for hiring and retaining veterans, ex-felons, people with disabilities, summer youth employees, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Supplemental Security Income recipients. Portman's amendment adds to this a \$2,400 credit for first year wages paid to the long-term unemployed.

"I am pleased my amendment that was reported out of the Senate Finance Committee was included in the year-end tax package because it will encourage businesses to hire long-term unemployed Ohioans, helping them get back on their feet," **said Portman**. "Six years after the recession was declared over, more than 2 million Americans have been unemployed 27 weeks or longer - and even that excludes the approximately 6 million Americans who say they want a job but are not counted as unemployed because they have given up searching. This provision creates an incentive for employers to hire those folks, the very people who have the most trouble finding work."

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Legislative Reception



Harry Snyder, President of Great Oaks Career Centers, Sherry Kelley Marshall, President/CEO, SWORWIB, Jim Kummer, President/Owner of A Caring Choice, Inc. and John Bosse, Vice President of Small Business Development, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, attended the 2015 Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Legislative Reception celebrating the Chamber's work for policy action in Ohio.

In the News:

As earlier reported, the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, led by President & CEO, Sherry Kelley Marshall, convened a partnership of adult education specialists and advocated for the team to apply for an Adult 22+ Diploma grant which was received in November 2015. To read more on this grant award in the December 15, 2015 Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber newsletter, [click here.](#)

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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 [click here](#).

Contact: Cheryl Brueggeman
Youth/Public Information Consultant
cbrueggeman@sworwib.org



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