



The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The latest news from
The Southwest Ohio Region
Workforce Investment Board

NEWSWIB

January 2014

Real people ... real jobs

Last year, more than 700 job seekers found a new job thanks to the help they got at the [SuperJobs Center](#). To start the New Year, let's review a few in the words of the job seekers themselves:

Thomas Baldwin II: Baldwin was laid off from his longtime job as a driver with Hostess Brands Corp., when it closed its Hamilton County operations. Within months, he registered at the SuperJobs Center and began truck driver training at [Napier Truck Driving Training Inc.](#) "I sought out SJC because of the relationship they had with Napier in addition to hearing great things from people in the community," he said. "In no time, SuperJobs put me in touch with Napier." As a dislocated worker, his tuition was paid through Workforce Investment Act funds. Baldwin graduated from Napier with a commercial driver's license. "I am proud to say I am currently employed as a driver with [Wright Brothers Inc.](#)," he said.



Dayla Crawford rings the bell at SuperJobs signaling that she found a job.

Dayla Crawford: Crawford had been out of work for six months but always tried to keep a positive attitude when she went to workshops at SuperJobs. "Super Jobs gave me countless job leads every month," she said. "These leads paid off as I found a good paying job with [TriHealth!](#)" Crawford now works as an administrative assistant at TriHealth. "The services provided by Super Jobs are very important for people who are unemployed," she said. "I am so glad they are here."

Aaron Duke: Formerly a construction worker, Duke had been unemployed for more than two years, when he came to the SuperJobs Center and took advantage of workshops and hiring events. He is now working as Supervisor of Environmental Services at TriHealth. "I am thankful to Super Jobs for all they have done for me. I especially appreciate the career coaching and gas cards they provided," Duke said.

Albert Horne: Horne frequently visited the SuperJobs Center to check on job openings. "I always check the job board for available job postings and then I start my job search on the computer in the resource room, mainly to apply for the open jobs on the job board," he said. On the morning of July 24, 2013, he heard an announcement that a hiring event was being held upstairs for [ECU Staffing MultiServices](#), which was hiring for a variety of hotel positions. Horne, who had a background in hospitality, thought he would be a good fit, and felt prepared



Albert Horne

for the interview since he had taken interview workshops at SuperJobs. On that day, Horne was hired by ECU as a dishwasher.

Tonia Lee: Lee came to SuperJobs two months after being laid off. "I attended a couple of workshops and that helped tremendously with my self-confidence," she said. "I also used the computers to look for work." She was offered and accepted a job with [Triplefin](#) working as a reimbursement counselor, and now earns \$13.50 an hour. "I cannot say enough nice things about the people at Super Jobs! Thank you!"

Employers First partners trade leadership

The [SWORWIB](#) is passing the baton for [Employers First Regional Workforce Network](#) (EFRWN).

Employers First has been around since 2001, both informally and formally, bringing together the four Workforce Board executives and One Stop directors in the TriState. In the past, the group was led by the [Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board](#), which obtained a Department of Labor Regional Innovation Grant in 2009 to formalize the organization and its regional work. Taking turns with leadership, the SWORWIB served as lead entity and fiscal agent for a Social Innovation Fund Grant in 2011-2013 to focus on employer outreach in specific industry sectors, such as additional grants for the region, and promote workforce advocacy.



Doug High, left, Eudora Coker, Sherry Kelley Marshall, Barbara Stewart, and Janice Urbanik.

With the New Year, the Northern Kentucky WIB will again assume leadership of Employers First, thanks to a \$2.7 National Emergency Grant it received to assist Comair workers to find work. Comair closed its operations in September 2012, displacing thousands of workers. The grant is being used to cover various costs to help about 350 workers get back to work, including assessments, training and credentialing. It will cover workers in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. Employers First can help facilitate these services, noted **Barbara Stewart**, Director of the Northern Kentucky WIB.

Employers First helps to connect employers, especially new ones, to business services at area One Stop job centers, and coordinates statewide resources. These services include taking job orders, holding hiring events, and screening and testing applicants - all at no cost to employers. **Eudora Coker** is the new coordinator for the organization.

"Since many companies in Greater Cincinnati pull employees from all three states, Employers First can make it easier for them to recruit in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana," said **Sherry Kelley Marshall**, President/CEO of the SWORWIB.

In other EFRWN news, the [Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board](#), an EFRWN partner, has a new operator and director. It will be operated by the [National Able Network](#). The new statewide director is **Kurt Kegerreis**.

Workforce connections helped Bob Evans staff new restaurant in Finneytown



Finneytown high school students Jaylah Howell, left, Panor Parker, Kevin Walker and Haley Hatfield work at the new Bob Evans restaurant in Finneytown.

Sometimes serendipity happens.

One Saturday last August, **Scott O'Shaughnessy**, manager of a [Bob Evans](#) restaurant in Sharonville, noticed the shirt of a woman sitting at one of his tables. It said Finneytown Soccer. He decided to introduce himself. O'Shaughnessy was soon to be the manager of Bob Evans' new restaurant in Finneytown, which was opening in late September, and he wanted to spread the word.

His customer was **Sherry Kelley Marshall**. Not only was she a Finneytown resident, with a son who had just graduated from Finneytown High School, she was also President/CEO of the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board. Her job involves meeting owners and managers of new or expanding businesses, and connecting them to resources that will help them in hiring.

And that's exactly what happened. O'Shaughnessy passed Marshall's contact information to **Scott Atkins**, corporate hiring manager for Bob Evans. "In a matter of days, Sherry had introduced me to the SuperJobs Center and the principal of Finneytown High School. Everyone in the community was so helpful, it was an absolute joy to be in the community," Atkins said. That chance meeting led to a number of hires referred by the SuperJobs Center, as well as students from [Finneytown High School's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates](#) program.

The complete story is [here](#).

Short takes

ACT conference in Columbus next week

The Ohio ACT State Organization's 2014 Annual Conference -- "Aspiring to College and Career Readiness" -- will be held Jan. 28-29 at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. President Marshall, a member of the council, advocated for including sessions on career readiness. Our thanks to **Chris Fridel**, Director of the Greater Cincinnati Apprenticeship Council, who is leading a workshop on apprenticeships; **Mark Birnbrich**, Project Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, who is leading a workshop on OhioMeansJobs; and **John Nelson**, ACT Workforce Program Manager, who is leading a workshop with **President Marshall** on employer needs. For more information, www.act.org/events/OH2014.

The latest on grants

Several grants involving Greater Cincinnati youth are in the works:

-- Social Innovation Fund Grant: Will help 20 disadvantaged youth achieve the [National Career Readiness Certificate](#), and then enroll them training leading to an industry-recognized credential. Outcomes include placing most of the youth in jobs.

-- Planning grant to develop an intervention model to prevent youth homelessness. Lighthouse Youth Services is the lead on this DOL grant, and the SWORWIB is on the planning committee.

-- DOL grant to [Urban League](#) to improve the long-term job and career prospects of youth offenders. The program will involve expungement of records, assessments, training toward industry-recognized credentials, and will also help the youth find jobs.

Big push on GED 2013

GED 2014 begins with new assessments and higher costs. The SWORWIB thanks all of our GED training providers and testing agencies for their regionwide push to help those without a GED complete their tests in 2013.

In the news

MSSC's 50,000th credential (in Chamber's [Currents](#))

SWORWIB promotes job results (G*Stars [website](#))

Long-term unemployed [lose benefits](#)

Contact: **Kathleen Williams, Youth/Public Information Coordinator**
kwilliams@gccc.com

