The SWORWIB invites board members and supporters to attend a planning forum on January 29, 2016, from 8am-11am, at the Great Oaks Instructional Resource Center, 100 Scarlet Oaks Drive, Cincinnati 45241. The forum is designed to gather information necessary to develop the local and regional strategic plans required under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services policy.

The agenda for the meeting includes the following focus groups facilitated by board members, SWORWIB, Hamilton County Job and Family Services and OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County staffs.

- OhioMeansJobs Partner Alignment and Certification
- Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP)
- Industry Sectors, Training Providers, Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) and On-the-Job Training Accounts (OJT's)
Information gathered from the strategic planning session is essential to the development of the local and regional plans, which will be posted on the SWORWIB website for public comment prior to submission to the State.

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**SWORWIB Board Members Whose Terms Ended December 31, 2015**

At the November 11, 2015 Board meeting, President Marshall recognized Board members completing their terms of office for their service and many contributions to the SWORWIB.

Marshall thanked Barry Strum and Timothy Devine who were present as well as Kevin Powell who has Ex-Officio status through 2016. Marshall also recognized members who also completed their terms: Douglas Arthur, Jennifer Graft, Andrew Lotter, Dan Ripberger, Safi W. Safi, Mark Stoeber, George Wilson, Pamela Wilson and Christopher Young.

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**Spotlight on Veterans**

**Veterans Services Passes the "Mystery Shopper" Test**

Zachary Ludi, Veteran Program Manager, Veterans' Workforce Services. Office of Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services surprised the Veterans staff at the OhioMeansJobs/Cincinnati-Hamilton County earlier this week dressed as an Iraq War veteran. No one knew Zac was actually an ODJFS staff member checking on the quality of services available to our veterans. Zac was extremely pleased with the services he received and here's what he had to say about his experience.

"From the moment I walked into OhioMeansJobs/Cincinnati-Hamilton County, I felt welcomed as a military veteran. Both Shannon at the front desk and state Customer Service Representative Sonya thanked me for my military service. I was provided local workshop information and encouraged to register for OhioMeansJobs.com. Additionally, Sonya provided me with a guided tour of the features on OhioMeansJobs.com, including the job search function, backpack features, resume grader and the military veteran’s portion of the website located through Private OWEN. Afterwards, I was provided with a warm handoff with Customer Service Representative Kenni. Kenni offered to market my resume with her local employer contacts as well as share it with Workforce Specialist Darryl, a military veteran that markets customers with local employers. This pairing of customers with Workforce Specialist and/or Business Service is a great practice to share.

During the site visit, I observed an efficient veteran intake process. I was impressed by the professionalism and the holistic customer service approach
OhioMeansJobs/Cincinnati-Hamilton County provides to Ohio's military veterans. It is a great model of how partners are working together as a team to meet employment goals for Ohio's military veterans.

We are proud to say that our staff not only works diligently to service our veterans but does so without even knowing they are being "mystery shopped."

For more information on Veteran Services, click here to access OhioMeansJobs/Cincinnati-Hamilton County.

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**Veterans Jobs Fair**

A Veterans Job Fair, hosted by Congressman Brad Wenstrup, will be held at the Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230, on February 19, 2016 from 12pm-2pm.

Employers from across the Greater Cincinnati area will be on hand to discuss career possibilities. Resume assistance will also be available.

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**Spotlight on Jobseeker**

**OMJ Services Lead to New Career as a Cincinnati Police Officer**

John Goebel lost his job after 17 years. It was as he stated "one of the darkest times" of his life. John had always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a police officer. As he started his enrollment in the Great Oaks Police Academy, he was connected with the OhioMeansJobs Center. John soon found out he was eligible to receive $5,000 toward his Police Academy tuition. On December 1, 2015, John graduated as President and Valedictorian of class 15-053. Soon thereafter, he accepted an offer from the Cincinnati Police Department and on January 4, 2016, John reported to the CPD as a Police Recruit.

In John's letter of thanks to Brandy Herrmann, Project Manager, OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County, he shared his gratitude and his emotional story. John's story is an example of the collaborative work between Marty Lopinto, Great Oaks Career Planning Specialist, and Brandy and her team at the OMJ Center. John's message to Ms. Lopinto: "I wanted to thank you for informing me of the existence of these funds, coordinating my meeting with OMJ, and assisting me with the necessary forms." And to Ms. Herrmann, "dealing with your organization was like a ray of sunshine which provided additional hope for a much brighter future. Thank you for assisting in my efforts to obtain my goal. I assure you I will serve with the utmost integrity for the citizens of this great city and will never forget your organization's generosity."

Thanks to John, our tireless efforts to collaborate and bring much needed support to job seekers confirms that what we do really does matter.
President Marshall recently presented on the topic of "Millenials in the Workforce" at the Greater Cincinnati Human Resources Association meeting. According to the latest statistics, millennials will outnumber baby boomers in the workforce 2:1 by the year 2020 and are likely to be 75% of the workforce by 2025. Research on this interesting young generation makes us aware that they bring new insights into what is important to their careers.

Millenials are not just young faces at work! They are our daughters, sons, nieces, nephews and grandkids. They bring new ideas, technology, social interests and skill sets to our organizations. Here are some interesting facts about millenials:

- 64% would rather make $40,000 a year in a job that they enjoy than $100,000 a year doing something boring
- $1 trillion+ in consumer spending annually
- 52% have the majority of their savings in cash
- More than half (63%) want their employer to contribute to social or ethical causes they think are important

Also presenting was Harry Snyder, President of Great Oaks, who shared information on academic programs and adult workforce services available at the Great Oaks campuses. Erika Fiola, Strategic Initiatives Manager of Agenda 360, also highlighted the efforts to increase workforce diversity in the region.

Congratulations to the graduates of the .NET Programming Bootcamp conducted by MAX Technical Training in collaboration with the SWORWIB and Partners for a Competitive Workforce (PCW).
Eight individuals funded by the SWORWIB and PCW graduated from the training and were presented at the Employer's Showcase. Working with OhioMeansJobs Center/Cincinnati-Hamilton County, WIOA funds and federal National Emergency Grant funds for sector partnerships were utilized to support training costs.

HR leaders from Western & Southern, Kroger and Ingage Partners attended to interview the graduates. Employers shared the need for job seekers to obtain IT certifications such as .NET in order to be successful employees.

A Java Programming Bootcamp is scheduled for March.

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. The SWORWIB now has 170+ followers on Twitter and is excited to report that Managerial Magazine is one of our newest followers!

Donations Appreciated

The SWORWIB is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Would you or your organization like to support the continued success of the workforce board? To make a donation (tax deductible) to the SWORWIB in support of Cincinnati-Hamilton County workforce initiatives, click here.