



The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The latest news from
The Southwest Ohio Region
Workforce Investment Board

NEWSWIB

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GAO Researches SWORWIB as Best Practice



The team engaged in the video conference with the GAO Research Team.

Everyone likes being honored, so the news that the SWORWIB has been selected by the U.S. Government Accountability Office ([USGAO](#)) Research Division to be interviewed for its outstanding work on career pathways and participation in regional WIB initiatives is great news.

USGAO conducted a pre-research and nominations process for which the SWORWIB received several nominations from national organizations and elected officials resulting in the SWORWIB being selected for consideration in an upcoming report to the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, (Senate HELP Committee) and its Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce Safety. According to Senior Research Analyst Christopher D. Morehouse, "The GAO is seeking to identify promising practices in workforce collaborations involving the public workforce boards and industry employers." Morehouse further noted, "The roles played by workforce investment boards (WIBs) in these collaboratives; the results for individuals, employers, and the workforce system; opportunities for federal agencies to support such collaboration; and the implications, if any, for Workforce Investment Act reauthorization."

SWORWIB President/CEO Sherry Kelley Marshall participated in an interview designed to identify which of the nominated WIBs to include in the final research product. The SWORWIB's leadership with the Workforce Partners Council, work over the last decade by the Employers First Regional Workforce Network, and multiple sector initiatives in construction, manufacturing, energy, customer contact operations, and healthcare were of particular interest to the GAO Research

Team.

During the initial interview with Morehouse, Marshall was required to select only one of the sector initiatives with career pathways for further exploration. Given the tremendous success and longevity of the Health Careers Collaborative, it seemed the best career pathway to focus on in the research effort.

The SWORWIB was notified in late June that the GAO has selected the SWORWIB and the health career pathway initiative in which the SWORWIB has been a founding partner for inclusion in the Senate HELP Committee research project. A virtual site visit by video conference took place on Monday, July 18th, where key partners in the health career pathway shared the history, successes and challenges of this ten year partnership among hospital employers such as Health Alliance, Tri-Health, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Great Oaks, Cincinnati State, the SWORWIB SuperJobs Center, Dress for Success, Mercy Neighborhood Services, United Way and the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network.

MSSC Graduates Being Showcased at Regional Event

The SWORWIB has partnered with our local Cincinnati Labor Agency for Social Services (CLASS) and the Alliance for Green Manufacturing Skills Training (AGMST) to provide the Manufacturing Skills Standards Credential and National Career Readiness Certificate to workers who are being dislocated

from plant closings at Avon, Jim Beam and Graphics Packaging. Additionally there are local partnerships to provide this training program throughout the Southwest Ohio Region, so AGMST is presenting a Graduate Showcase event on Tuesday, July 26, from 6pm - 8pm, at the Meridian Conference Center at the Wyndham in West Chester.

[MSSC](#) certified professionals will be celebrated for their achievement and several employers that prioritize MSSC Certification in their hiring processes will be present to engage graduates on their experience and possible job opportunities. Graduates can sign up for free MSSC Certified Logistics Associate Training and the new MSSC Green Production Training. This unique showcase is offered exclusively to the production certification (CPT) Graduates of the AGMST, which is administering a \$3.9 million Department of Labor grant to retrain dislocated manufacturing workers and has partnered with the SWORWIB for training within Hamilton County.



Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification (MSSC) is a nationwide, industry-based skill standards, assessment and certification system for all sectors of manufacturing. The MSSC goal is to train and credential the workforce with high-performance knowledge and skills necessary to boost the productivity, innovation, and competitiveness of local and U.S. manufacturers. Four key modules are critical to build the core knowledge and skills necessary in advanced manufacturing and are part of the MSSC standards: Safety, Quality Practices and Measurement, Process and Production, and Maintenance and Awareness.

Annual Board Recruitment Underway



Nominating
Committee Chair

Natalie Galbato, SWORWIB'S new Nominating Committee Chair, announced at the May Quarterly Board meeting that recruitment for new board members is underway for the January 2012-December 2013 two year term.

Assuming the continuation of the federal WIA funding, there are currently no plans for change of the Workforce Investment Board structure or purposes, but the Nominating Committee will consider the board and committee structure for adjustment if needed. Nominations can be sent to WIB@gccc.com.

EMSI Employer Portal

With funding from the Ohio Skills Bank and in partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network and Employers First Regional Workforce Network, President Sherry Kelley Marshall is working with the EMSI team to release a training and graduates locator portal for the tri-state region's employers to find graduates of programs as well as search for training they may wish for their employees.



Employers First and Best
Solution

Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. ([EMSI](#)), one of the nation's leading software research companies, provides high-quality employment data and economic analysis via web tools and custom reports and serves education, economic, and workforce development institutions and organizations. EMSI and Marshall expect to release the training portal later this summer on the Employers First website with linkages to all four of the tri-state Workforce Investment Boards which comprise Employers First as well as the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network as partners of Employers First.

Construction Summer Club Camp Celebration

The Spirit of Construction Summer Camp wrapped up on June 23, and the playhouse that the 18 middle school students built was trucked to the shop at United Group Services to have the finishing touches applied before it will be auctioned at the Spirit's Annual Fundraising Gala in October.



Delivering the house

According to Anne Mitchell, Middle School Advocate, "The first-year construction summer camp effort was a huge success, where the students learned good work habits, like being on time and being prepared with tools and safety equipment;



Jerrell nails it!

specialized skills like using a power saw and drill, installing windows, and wiring light fixtures and reinforcement of their academic skills. "They were motivated and engaged. Both students and their parents commented on how rewarding the experience had been, boosting self-esteem as well as skills," she said.

Mitchell said that none of this would be possible without the support of Dan Freese and United Group

Services, Associated Builders and Contractors and their member companies, Ohio Valley Electric, HGC, Diversified Facilities Solutions, the Spirit of Construction Foundation, the SWORWIB, Tech Prep, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation Summer Kids, Forge Lumber, Kevin Murray of Cincinnati Building and Contracting Specialties, and



Students gain hands-on
experience

Resurrection School.

EWDC Update

The Emerging Workforce Development Council (EWDC) is developing an energy career pathway to promote the industry to youth about the promising career opportunities in this industry. The Council has formed a team of professionals from the energy and youth development fields to determine the scope of the initiative. The EWDC is also collaborating with the Get Into Energy initiative to steer youth to the initiative which offers career coaching, workforce assessments, energy fundamental certificates and education/training opportunities.

EFRWN Seeks Coordinator Consultant



Employers First and Best Solution

Employers First Regional Workforce Network (EFRWN), a collaborative effort among the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio and Indiana Region 9 Workforce Board, is dedicated to meeting

employer demands for a skilled workforce. EFRWN has formalized their decade long collaboration with the belief that a strong regional approach with employers will be mutually rewarding for employers and jobseekers. Better services to employers, coordinated across 22 counties of the Tri-State region, will better help employers find the workers they need and stay in the Tri-State region to grow and prosper.

The Northern Kentucky WIB administered a \$250,000 Regional Innovation Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor last year, that allowed the informal group to conduct regional research and outreach to employers. With an additional \$150,000 grant from the United Way & Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network's Social Innovation Fund to formally establish Employers First through December 12, 2012. The SWORWIB, as administrative entity for this grant, has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to recruit and hire staff support to serve as the Employers First Collaboration Coordinator.

Individuals who can demonstrate relevant experience and knowledge related to the public workforce system, the charge of workforce boards and the CincinnatiUSA tri-state area as a whole are eligible to submit proposals.

Sherry Kelley Marshall, SWORWIB President/CEO, recruited each WIB to share the RFP with interested parties who would be interested in both assisting with recruiting for the staff consultant position and willing to assume the RFP coordinator role. The Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network is also promoting awareness of the position and Employers First. The deadline to apply is August 1. The RFP can be found at www.superjobs.com.

SuperJobs Center Director Heads Further South



Best wishes,
Vivian!

The SuperJobs Center Director since February 2010, Vivian Alexander, submitted a letter of resignation because she has accepted a position in workforce with the City of Memphis. "I wish you the best of success with advancing the SuperJobs Center as one of the top One-Stop Centers in the State of Ohio," Alexander wrote to SWORWIB President/CEO Sherry Kelley Marshall.

Marshall said Alexander came to SWORWIB during a time of uncertainty for the Workforce Investment Act and with layoffs and closings in Ohio and Hamilton County surging. "She helped lead much needed change and improvement, leaving the operations better for her time here," Marshall said of Alexander's contribution. "Just as we are sorry for her departure, we are simultaneously happy for her good work and her new opportunity."

Recruitment for the next SuperJobs Center Director is underway by Arbor/Rescare, a nationwide leader in providing workforce development services and the contracted vendor operating the SuperJobs Center.

In the News

Julia Muntel and Sherry Kelley Marshall were interviewed by WNKU this month about the GrowthForce partnership for economic development in southwest Ohio. Their interview will run on WNKU in the near future. http://www.wnku.org/page_wnku.asp

Construction Summer Camp link:

<http://cincinnati.com/blogs/wordonthewestside/2011/06/29/students-roll-up-sleeves-at-construction-camp/>