



The Southwest Ohio Region  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The latest news from  
The Southwest Ohio Region  
Workforce Investment Board

# NEWSWIB

July 2014

## WIA

### *The President signs WIOA into law*

Special thanks to Senator Brown and Senator Portman for their efforts to advance workforce innovation law for which elements of both Acts- SECTORS for Brown and CAREERS for Portman, were embraced in the new WIOA. More Ohioans can get help getting back to work and employers can fill in-demand jobs, because of the strong bi-partisan support from both houses of Congress on passing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Thanks also to Speaker of the House, **John Boehner (R-OH)**. The bill which passed the House of Representatives and the Senate was signed into law by **President Obama** Tuesday, July 22.

Overdue for reauthorization, the passing of WIOA continues the important work of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) by modernizing and improving the existing law to help workers secure skills needed in today's society, by expanding access to technology and digital literacy skills for adult learners as well as requiring better coordination and integration of adult education with state workforce development systems and postsecondary education. In Ohio, this means "one-stops" will be able to continue to work in assisting job seekers find the right job through free educational workshops, career coaching and job leads. OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County, provides taxpayers with direct services including hiring events, on-the-job training (OJT) professional training, transportation and job postings from hundreds of employers.

**U.S. Senator Rob Portman** (R-Ohio) praised the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). "For too many Americans, the only jobs that are available are those they don't have the skills or qualifications to fill," Portman said. "This has created a skills gap that is hurting unemployed workers and businesses, and is holding back the economy. I have worked in a bipartisan fashion to help these workers get back on a career path by bringing critical reforms to the federal government's inefficient and outdated workforce development system."

**U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH) Brown successfully fought for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to include provisions based on his bipartisan SECTORS Act. "The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is an important step towards addressing our country's skills gap," Brown said. "With too many Americans still unable to find work, we should do all that we can to ensure that our workers are qualified to fill available jobs. Provisions included in WIOA would strengthen job training efforts and enable U.S. industries like biotechnology, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing to continue to grow and flourish."

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities, sending nearly \$3 billion each year to states, to help adults, displaced workers and youth receive skills training and get jobs. WIA also supports a network of thousands of "one-stop" centers around the country that assist in job search support and education but WIA failed to keep pace with a changing economy and needed to be updated as early as 2003. "WIOA represents a big step forward for job skills training across the country," remarked **Sherry Kelley Marshall**, President and CEO of the Southwest Ohio Regional Workforce Investment Board. "The new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will stand as one of the biggest accomplishments of Congress."

# Spotlight on Manufacturing *MSSC in the tri-state*



MANUFACTURING  
SKILL STANDARDS  
COUNCIL

The annual MSSC Executive Briefing has come and gone and dozens of visitors from other communities expressed envy at the breadth of training available to job seekers for manufacturing in the local tri-state and the broader region. The SWORWIB in collaboration with the GE Learning Centre hosted an Executive Briefing, "MSSC in Tristate OH-IN-KY," June 18. Ohio and Indiana are the leading MSSC user states in the country. President Marshall bid to host the annual event in early 2013 and won the selection in summer 2013.

*The Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC)* is the nation's premiere industry- led training, assessment and certification organization focused on the core technical competencies needed by the nation's front-line production and material handling workers. The nationwide MSSC certifications offer both entry-level and incumbent workers the opportunity to demonstrate that they have acquired the knowledge and skills needed in the technology-intensive advanced manufacturing and logistics jobs of the 21st century.

Manufacturing in Ohio accounts for more than 16% of the total output in the state, employing 638,400 people. The top five manufacturing sub-sectors in Ohio are chemical, fabricated metal products, machinery, petroleum and coal products as well as food and beverage products.

The briefing included presentations by educators, company representatives, state elected officials, workforce investment representatives and economic development representatives.

The morning keynote was given by former Vice President of *Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)*, **Trevor Hamilton**, where he touched on the Southwestern Ohio Aerospace Region Manufacturing Community (SOAR) which was selected as one of 12 nationally designated areas for aligned federal funding.

---

## Spotlight on IT *14 students enter JAVA Developer Apprentice Program*

The 14 students in the JAVA Developers Apprentice Program class have their coffee brewed and PC ready to start their day. Students are in their 4th week with the regional IT pathways for JAVA training.

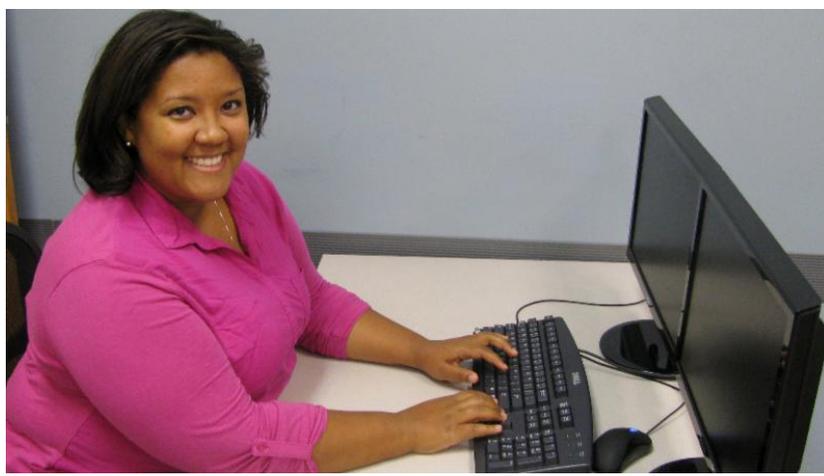
*The SWORWIB* joined forces with the *CIO Roundtable*, and *Partners for a Competitive Workforce* to fund the JAVA Developer Apprenticeship Program with the goal of training dislocated workers as JAVA developers needed by IT employers.

The seven week program includes 32 days of instruction for a total of 192 hours. Students who enter the apprenticeship have a high school diploma or GED, fundamentals in PC and Microsoft Windows skills and basic typing.



They also must score at least a six on the WorkKey's Math Assessment and complete the Programmer Aptitude Test with a minimum score of 80% as well as pass a background check and drug screen. Individuals who have successfully met the assessments and other requirements are eligible to participate in the interview process for selection with the training at no cost to them.

**Danae Brenner** of Glendale, OH, attended an orientation at OhioMeansJobs and passed the series of assessments to get into MAX. Brenner has a computer programming and computer engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati and was a Digital Network Analyst in her previous profession, so she is no



stranger to hard work in the field of IT. "I've learned about variables, Java methods, constructors and all the math that goes with it," laughed Brenner. After finishing the program, Brenner hopes that with her degrees and JAVA certification she can become more marketable and find a job in programming.

Brenner isn't the only student studying hard at MAX. **Trevor Napier**, a resident of Harrison, OH, was laid off as a Registered

Real Estate Appraisal Assistant. With a B.S. in Business Information Systems, Napier believes the coursework completed at MAX is useful and much more in depth and practical than what he had learned before.

"I hope to obtain a position as an apprentice developer to make the most of the skills I have currently and to further expand them," said Napier.

Once candidates graduate from the apprenticeship program, they could start at \$44,000- \$47,000 as an Associate Developer with the partnering employers.

The SWORWIB gives special thanks to *Great American Insurance* as the champion sponsor for the JAVA Developers Apprenticeship Program for their \$50,000 contribution.

## Spotlight on Veterans *Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair*



The Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Job Fair, was the final piece of the MSSC events in the tri-state. The job fair was held June 19th at the *Sharonville Convention Center* with 94 veterans in attendance and 40 employers. President Marshall presented job seeking, resume and interview tips to the veterans and career coached over two dozen individually throughout the whole event.

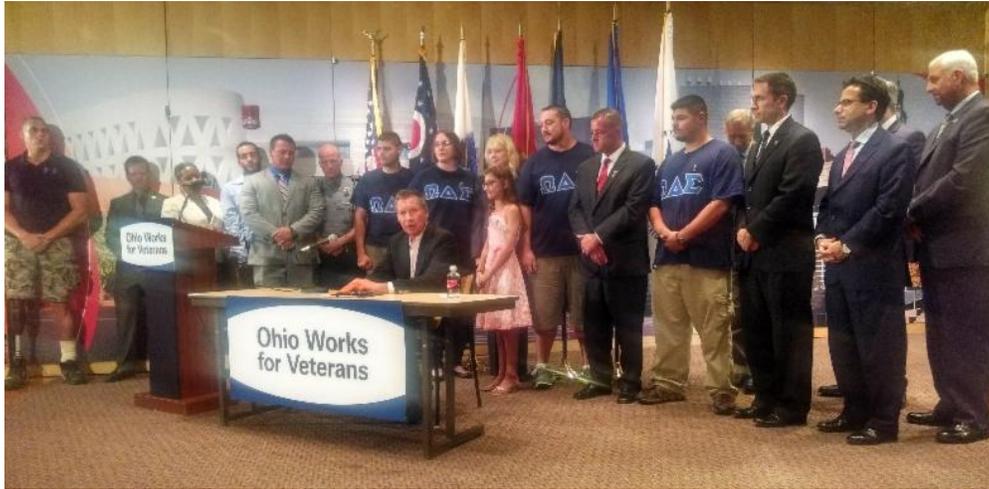


Michael Ames, recruiter with National Able, shaking hands with veteran

Companies such as *Diversified Brokerage Specialists Inc.*, *Freeman Enclosure*, and *Hayashi Telempu North America* attended the fair. Employers at the job fair collected 352 resumes and conducted 44 interviews. "The Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair was successful for me and my company," said **George Batsakes**, Technical Recruiter at *Prestige Technical Services*. "I have interviewed a handful of candidates that are currently going through the hiring process. I have extended two jobs offers to qualified veterans who attended the job fair. We

really like hiring military veterans for their discipline and work ethic that they bring to the table."

# Gov. Kasich signs new law to aid veterans



Gov. Kasich signed House Bill 488 at the University of Cincinnati with UC students and veterans

**Governor John Kasich** was in Cincinnati June 30, 2014 where he signed a bill that will help Ohio veterans and service members access higher education and earn credits at universities and other accrediting boards for their military experience. Having hosted the Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair earlier in June, the SWORWIB was honored to be invited to Governor Kasich's bill signing event for Ohio Veterans Legislation.

The bill helps Ohio veterans easily transition from military service to higher education at Ohio's public colleges and earn college credits for their previous experience. The bill is based on proposals that Governor Kasich introduced in March as part of the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR).

The major provisions of House Bill 488 include:

- Helping Veterans get jobs
- Fast track to state licenses
- Link to private employers with veterans preference
- Giving veterans college credit for their military training and experience
- Helping Ohio veterans make the transition to college
- Protecting Ohioans called to active duty

## *The new Veterans Business Support Center*

In addition to House Bill 488 (story above), there is a new addition to veterans services in Ohio. The new Veteran Business Support Center was announced July 22, 2014 by Governor Kasich's office. The Veteran Business Support Center connects employers with trained veteran employment representatives via phone, email and/or face-to-face meetings at local OhioMeansJobs Centers.

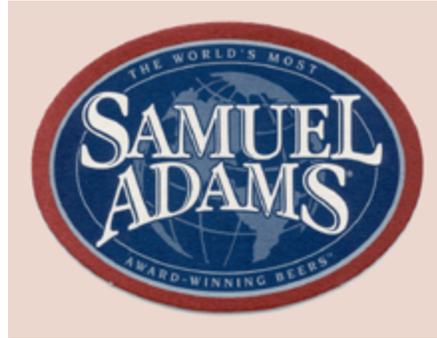
The center can assist employers with:

- Posting jobs, screening resumes and using the other H.R. tools available at OhioMeansJobs.com
- Locating qualified veteran candidates for job openings
- Finding and preparing for career fairs, workshops and other hiring events
- Information about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and other workforce development and hiring incentive programs for employers who hire veterans
- Demographic information about veterans in any given area, including education levels, skills, and cities of residence.

The Veteran Business Support Center is a partnership of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

To learn more about the support center, click [here](#)

# *Local beer brewery uses OhioMeansJobs services to open a third shift*



Samuel Adams is a good example of what happens when agencies work together to focus on the needs of the customer.

**Leah Winkler**, Ohio's State Workforce representative contacted the local Samuel Adams brewery after learning the beer company was adding another shift. She quickly enlisted the help of HCJFS staff to provide financial assistance in the form of on-the-job training (OJT) reimbursements. The help of OhioMeansJobs was welcomed by the company resulting in 8 on-the-job training hires and recruiting assistance at no cost.

"The team at OhioMeansJobs- Hamilton County, responded quickly to my request for assistance with workforce expansion," said **Amy Viessman**, Senior HR Generalist at Samuel Adams. "The state and county developed a customized approach which included recruiting qualified talent and followed up by identifying appropriate training programs supporting Samuel Adams Cincinnati Brewery to offset training cost."

Samuel Adams was able to please their customer's needs by creating a third production shift with the help of HCJFS staff, vet reps and the state workforce development team. Cheers to 30 years Samuel Adams and cheers to the OMJ Center Team!!!

## Spotlight on The SWORWIB *President Marshall attends Clinton Global Initiative*

This month, President/CEO of the SWORWIB, **Sherry Kelley Marshall** attended her second Clinton Global Initiative annual conference but this time in Denver. More than 1000 leaders from government, business, education and non-profit organizations attended CGI2014. Speakers included **U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, and former President Clinton along with Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock and Governor John Hickenlooper.**

Marshall joined the CGI Workforce Development Working Group last year in Chicago. The working group focuses on public-private partnerships that connect unemployed workers to education, training and jobs as well as policy directions such as confirmed competencies over time and grades or working to advance career exploration within the K-12 public education system.

In Denver, Marshall selected specific projects - or commitments in CGI terminology - for high school career exploration, manufacturing workforce development strategies, and Information Technology career pathways and alternative training modalities.

Upon return from CGI, Marshall began work with summer intern **Dominique Springs** and former staff member **Amy Hensley** to outreach to all school superintendents in Cincinnati & Hamilton County to help them implement use of the K-12 section of OMJ.com and share labor market information for use in guidance counseling in the public school system. Marshall is also working with the National Association of Manufacturers for advancing training and high school career exploration and with Geoff Smith, IT Pathway specialist with Partners for A Competitive Workforce, to consider a Seattle-based IT Training company's commitment to expand IT training to five more states.



# Spotlight on Youth *Spirit of Construction Campers build brick shed*



Summer campers with **Kate Csizmadia** (far left) and **Kevin Murray** (far right)

The Spirit of Construction Camp, held at Dater Montessori School in Price Hill, wrapped up its summer session June 20. On the final day of work, students put the finishing touches on the shed by getting the doors hung and finishing up painting. After students enjoyed chicken and hot dogs for lunch, parents and friends arrived to watch the campers graduate from the program. The shed will remain at Dater Montessori School.

The summer camp is in its fourth year, coordinated and led by Middle School Construction Industry Advocate, **Anne Mitchell**. The program continues to be supported by grants from the Spirit of Construction and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Young students who attend the camp learn how to measure, weld, saw, paint, and even install wiring.



Summer camper **Arin** striking a pose

The SWORWIB began the Middle School Outreach Program in 2009 as part of the Construction Career Pathways Collaborative in response to construction leadership concerns about the future of workforce. In the summer the students build and grow under the guidance and instruction of construction volunteers, while using math and reading skills. During the school year, they learn about and experience eight stages of construction in after school clubs.



Summer campers wrapping up painting

The camp would not be possible without the help of volunteers from *GEG Painting, Allied Construction Industries, Valcom, HGC Construction, Cincinnati Building and Contracting, Forge Lumber, Hummel Industries, Ohio Valley Electric, and Denier Electric.*

The SWORWIB gives a big round of applause to the students for completing an intense and fun summer program. Congratulations to ACI, **Anne Mitchell** and the Spirit of Construction for the 2014 Summer Camp and reaching more young people for construction careers exploration.

Annual MSSC Board and Leadership Council Meetings held in [Cincinnati](#)

## *Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!*

The SWORWIB has its own [Facebook](#) page, where we post news, pictures and interesting tidbits throughout the month. And we also have a Twitter feed -- @CincyWorkforce. So like us on Facebook and follow us on [Twitter](#) @CincyWorkforce and we'll keep you up to date throughout the month!

Contact:

**Dominique Springs**  
Youth/Public Information Summer Intern  
dsprings@cincinnati-chamber.com



Cincinnati -  
Hamilton County



View our profile on **LinkedIn**