



The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The latest news from
The Southwest Ohio Region
Workforce Investment Board

NEWSWIB

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Congratulations to Literacy Center West's 2011 graduates! LCW, one of the [SWORWIB's](#) youth providers, graduated 21 youth June 2 at Prospect House Chapel. Of those, 12 participated in LCW's "The Next Level," a WIA youth program. Among their accomplishments: **Jalina Britten** was hired by Shadeau Bread; **Ed Lyons**, Meineke Electronics; **Antenique Lumpkin** and **Yanea Smith**, TJ Maxx; **Russell DeArmond**, Penn Station with plans to enter the military; and **Autumn Burd**, Joseph Beth Booksellers and Frisch's as well as attending Cincinnati State. All youth obtained their GED with Literacy Center West, says a proud **Jeremiah Griswold**, Program Director at LCW.

And a shout-out to LCW grad **Ron Lewis**. Ron, 18, won the SWORWIB's video contest on the importance of staying in school. His winning rap video has been posted on YouTube.

[Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates](#), also a SWORWIB youth provider, had 77 graduates this spring from the following high schools: Aiken College and Career, Mt. Healthy, Oyler, Purcell Marian, R. A. Taft Information Technology, Western Hills Engineering, Winton Woods and Woodward Career Technology.



Literacy Center West graduates

"We're proud of all the graduates in these outstanding programs," says **Nicole Ware**, the SWORWIB'S Emerging Workforce Development Coordinator.

As youth participants in the area's WIA programs celebrate their graduations, middle school youth in several schools on the west side of Cincinnati are learning more about construction skills during the Spirit of Construction Summer Camp program.

During their first week, at Resurrection School in Price Hill, students began to build a playhouse, as they measured, marked, sawed and hammered. The students have tackled a lot of math problems with fractions and angles, reports **Anne Mitchell**, Construction



Construction Summer Camp students at Resurrection.

Industry Advocate. Construction Campers will hold a community event June 23 to show off their work. Thanks again to [Associated Builders and Contractors](#), the [Spirit of Construction Foundation](#), [Greater Cincinnati Foundation](#), and [Tech Prep](#) for their generous financial support.

EMPLOYER SUCCESS STORY: GSF

Several years ago, **Steve Harris** came to the [SuperJobs Center](#) to get help as a job seeker. Before too long, he was in a position where he could make a difference in people's lives - again by using SuperJobs, but this time to hire people.



Steve Harris

In November 2010, Harris became General Manager of [GSF](#) Ohio, an industrial and commercial cleaning company. When it came time to hire people, Harris turned to the Business Services Staff at SuperJobs Center. In previous posts as a hiring manager, Harris worked closely with Business Services Representative **Denise Becker**, and he wanted to continue that relationship at GSF.

"I have worked with Denise since 2005, and I have a great relationship with her," said Harris. "She is always very professional, and works with me very closely to determine what I am looking for when I hire people. Denise would ask me very specific questions as she put together a plan and then worked to ensure qualified applicants showed up to be interviewed."

Becker organized Hiring Events for GSF; Harris estimates that he has hired about a half-dozen people through SuperJobs since he began working with Becker. "At the last hiring event, about 25 people showed up," Harris says. "That is a good turnout in my business."

"The staff at SuperJobs offers us access to great resources and expertise," says Harris. "In my mind it's a networking arena. I think SuperJobs has so much to offer to employers."

AVON TRANSITION CENTER IN FULL GEAR



The SuperJobs Transition Center at Avon is busy these days. Transition Coordinators **Sandy Braswell**, left, **Belinda Chichester**, and **Glenda Hain** mentor Avon employees to help them prepare for new jobs or training as Avon winds down its manufacturing operations. On a recent day 23 people had signed in to the Transition Center, several to take the on-site classes being offered to obtain a Product Technician Certificate through the [Manufacturing Skills Standard Council](#). The classes are offered at no cost to Avon employees through a partnership between the SWORWIB and the Alliance for Green Manufacturing Skills Training. Avon students' Work Keys scores are 25 to 30 percent higher than the national average, says **Dave Cash**, one of the MSSC instructors at Avon.

SUPERJOBS OFFERING WORK KEYS ASSESSMENTS

With the [National Career Readiness Certificate](#), offered through ACT's [Work Keys](#) assessments, becoming increasingly important to employers, the SuperJobs Center will soon offer the Work Keys assessments, says **Sherry Kelley Marshall**, President/CEO of the SWORWIB.

The NCRC measures competencies in three areas -- applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information -- and is a credential that is a reliable predictor of workplace success, says the ACT. A person's Work Keys scores in these competencies then determine whether he/she receives a bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificate.



NATIONAL
CAREER READINESS
CERTIFICATE®

For example, says **Janice Urbanik**, Director of Industry Partnerships at the Greater Cincinnati Workforce Network (GCWN), students must have a silver level certificate to participate in the MSSC classes being held at Butler Tech and the Community Action Agency. Silver means that the students have achieved 4 out of a possible 7 in scores across these competencies. GCWN is working with the regional Workforce Investment Boards and nonprofit providers to advance this work readiness credential as a staple for our regional workforce.

Meanwhile, the SWORWIB is actively promoting the NCRC and MSSC training to dislocated workers through its partnership with CLASS and other union organizations working to upgrade the skills of our regional workforce, Marshall notes. The SWORWIB and its union partners are now offering the MSSC at Transition Centers at Beam Global Spirits and Avon.

Everyone won't be able to score high in these assessments, so the SWORWIB will work with dislocated and adult workers who need to improve their scores, says Marshall. "We soon will be partnering with Great Oaks and Cincinnati Public Schools for the Key Train program that prepares students for the Work Keys assessments," she says. "Many states in the nation are using Work Keys and the NCRC to promote their workforce qualities to current and prospective employers -- and Kentucky has even branded its own work readiness credential. To best serve our jobseeking and employer customers we are encouraging this credential, not just for the current workforce but also for our emerging workforce.

"I am convinced that Ohio's high school and college graduates would be much stronger employment candidates if they left academia with a work readiness credential, too," says Marshall.

LINE MECHANIC STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE SKILLS

The Southwest Ohio Get Into Energy team got a first-hand look at utility line apprentice training with a demonstration from the current electrical power line mechanic class at the Warren County Career Center June 10. About 30 students, several funded through the Workforce Investment Act, scaled 40-foot utility poles and demonstrated various techniques including rescuing injured co-workers, hanging cross-arms, and running wire.

[Warren County Career Center](#) and [Great Oaks](#) have graduated about 200 people in the three years they have been offering this program, says **Tom Harris**, Director of Adult Education at the Career Center, and the great majority of them are quickly placed in jobs, he said.

Get Into Energy is a Gates Foundation funded program to target young people, ages 16-26, from disadvantaged backgrounds, to consider a career with utility companies, which expect to see opportunities for new workers as boomers retire. Ohio is one of the pilot states in the program, and Workforce Areas 12 (Butler, Warren, Clermont counties) and 13 (Hamilton County/Cincinnati) are working together on the project.



Students who enroll in this class can't have a fear of heights but also need to be cautious.

SHORT TAKES: JOBS FOR FUTURE TAKE LEARNING TOUR

JOBS FOR FUTURE TAKE LEARNING TOUR: June 6 was a jam-packed day for visitors from the Joyce Foundation's [Jobs for the Future](#) and the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), who came to Cincinnati to learn more about career pathway partnerships and the 10-year collaboration of the Tri-State Workforce Investment Boards. The group met with the WIB executives of the southeast Indiana Region 9, Northern Kentucky WIB, SWORWIB and Workforce One, as well as visited the [Health Professions Academy](#), SuperJobs Center, and Gateway Community and Technical College Center for [Advanced Manufacturing](#).

During the day, the group learned more about [Employers First Regional Workforce Network](#) - of

which the SWORWIB is a founding member. The group also learned of the SWORWIB and GCWN's work on construction career pathways.

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