

SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

NewsWIB June 2015

Spotlight on SWORWIB

Annual Public Officials Forum

On May 8, 2015, the SWORWIB held the Annual Public Officials Forum at the OhioMeansJobs Center Cincinnati-Hamilton County. The Annual Forum is open to all new and current public officials in Hamilton County. Hosted by SWORWIB President, Sherry Kelley Marshall, the Forum provided information regarding the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) effective July 1, 2015 and the SWORWIB's initiatives and activities.

OMJ Center staff, Lynn Murphy and Tim Scott, provided a tour of the facilities and discussed the programs available to Cincinnati-Hamilton County job seekers and businesses. Nearly 4,000 OMJ customers were served last year through Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), On-the-Job Training Accounts (OJTs), job fairs, career coaching and workshops.

Representatives from the area who attended the Forum included Gena Bell from the office of Hamilton County Commissioner, Chris Monzel; Representative Jonathan Dever, Ohio House of Representatives 28th District and Justin Hucke, of Dever's Staff; Stuart Zorn from the Office of Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown; Representative Tim Derickson, Ohio House of Representatives 53rd District; and Representative Lou Terhar, Ohio House of Representatives 30th District.

Spotlight on Employer



B WAY is one of the largest manufacturers of rigid metal, plastic and hybrid containers in North America.

With a growing facility locally, they turned to OMJ Hamilton/Cincinnati to post their open positions. They were hoping to get qualified candidates and were delighted when the candidates were a good fit for their openings.

B WAY has hired two candidates to date. One is Mr. James Garrett, a dislocated worker and veteran who is starting a new career path and gaining new skills. Mr. Garrett was a Rock Tenn Employee. Rock Tenn closed their local facility. When the plant closed, a transition center was set up and managed by the Rapid Response Team at OMJ. That team provided these dislocated workers with job search, resume writing and interviewing skills. Mr. Garrett, laid off after 10 years of service with the company, took advantage of these services.

After participating in the the Ohio Learn to Earn (OLE) for 2 weeks, Mr. Garrett started his new position with B WAY on Monday June 8, 2015 and will receive his first pay increase after 60 days on staff.

This success story is one example of the integrated supports available through the OMJ Business Services team. The Business Services team includes staff from three different agencies culminating in the collaborative efforts of partners throughout the OMJ center.

Marshall Participates in TAACCCT Webinar

Early June, President Marshall joined Regina Livers from Cincinnati State Community and Technical College (CSTCC) and Randy Johnson, Workforce Development, Inc., serving a large area of southeast Minnesota, along with host Ron Painter, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Workforce Boards, in a national webinar on "Effective Partnership with the Workforce System: Leveraging Resources to Improve TAACCCT Outcomes."

The webinar panel shared their experiences in effective partnerships noting that a key element of success for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Transition grants is the quality and depth of the partnerships between the workforce boards and the community colleges. Marshall reviewed the long history of SWORWIB partnerships with education, both with the Great Oaks Career Technical System and with CSTCC, before, during and after her years of service as Executive Dean of the CSTCC Workforce Development Center covering career pathways developed in healthcare, construction, manufacturing and information technology.

Livers elaborated specifically on CSTCC's leadership with a large TAACCCT grant for healthcare which created the Pathway to Employment Center at the one-stop center for Cincinnati/Hamilton County, as well as subsequent TAACCCT grants for advanced manufacturing, and recently a joint effort funded by the State of Ohio with the SWORWIB and Partners for A Competitive Workforce developing a Transportation/Distribution and Logistics industry initiative. Johnson shared similar experiences of success with his local and state higher education system.

These two workforce boards have long histories of effective partnerships with industry and post-secondary educational institutions where the partners work together to involve employers, determine industry needs, recruit job seekers, and support them from graduation into new employment.

The webinar had a large audience of partners in TAACCCT grants throughout the country. Special thanks to Chris Watson on behalf of the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration and Erica Acevedo from Jobs for the Future for their leadership in coordinating the webinar.

Marshall Shares Regional Data as Panelist at MSSC Conference

On June 16 and 17, the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council held its annual Leadership Council and Executive Briefing with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, the Great Lakes Manufacturing Council and the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS). The topic of the conference was "Industry Certifications: Closing the Manufacturing Skills Gaps in the Great Lakes Region."

The conference was hosted by Ivy Tech Community College where various industry experts discussed a variety of topics related to the challenges of building a manufacturing talent pipeline. President Marshall, a member of the MSSC Leadership Council, was asked to serve as a panelist on the topic of "Model Programs in Other Great Lakes States." Additional panelists included workforce professionals from WIBs, workforce development and colleges in Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania.

Marshall shared the experiences of Southwest Ohio as a tri-state model for manufacturing re-growth and job development. The SWORWIB was an integral player bringing together workforce agencies and manufacturing employers to deal with the recent recession and massive layoffs that plagued Ohio. There was a high need for dislocated workers to refresh their skills and gain relevant credentials to be ready for new manufacturing technologies and/or new manufacturing businesses coming into Ohio.

With increasing worker re-employment and successful manufacturing business recruitment, the need for credentialing became obvious to tri-state employers. There was a push for employees to have the combined National Career Readiness Credential (NCRC) and the Certified Production Certification (CPT). Manufacturing employers responded favorably and workforce development agencies, career technical schools and community colleges began to embed the CPT into training,

certificates and/or degree programs. The CPT became a valuable credential to the employer and the employee. Marshall also worked with the community colleges in Southwest Ohio to provide credit-bearing certification for the MSSC-CPT.

As the need for transportation, distribution and logistics (TDL) employees grows in the tri-state region, the Certified Logistics Technician (CLT) certification is another key credential for the region for which a TDL curriculum partnership and a \$200,000 grant is allowing this new career pathway to be developed.

To support future funding needs for manufacturing training, the region is applying for a Department of Labor Apprenticeship Training Grant to support Southwest Ohio's businesses and job seekers.

Marshall's comments reflected on the continual need for upskilling dislocated and incumbent workers while also focusing on opportunity youth who are looking to start their careers in manufacturing.



Spotlight on OhioMeansJobs *OhioMeansJobs Job Fair*

On June 18, Cincinnati-Hamilton County OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) held a Job Fair at the Great Oaks Career Campus in Sharonville, Ohio. More than 100 companies looking for new employees to fill open positions attended the Job Fair and an estimated 400+ job seekers came out to the event hoping to secure their next job.

Both youth and adult job seekers saw first hand the breadth of positions currently available in manufacturing, distribution, warehousing, retail sales, etc. Several companies of current and past SWORWIB board members also had booths at the job fair.

Ohio and Hamilton County Job and Family Services and OMJ Center staff made

presentations on resume building, interviewing techniques and online applications. President Marshall spoke to both job seekers and businesses who were very excited about the turnout.



Spotlight on Ohio *New Ohio Adult 22+ High School Diploma Program*

Currently, there are approximately 1.1 million adults in Ohio without a high school diploma. The Adult (22+) High School Diploma Program creates a new pathway for these individuals ages 22 and over to earn a high school diploma.

"QuickTurn" is designed to transform the lives of those who missed out on a high school diploma. The Ohio Department of Education, and five Southwestern Ohio educational institutions have teamed up to offer free courses that can be completed in weeks or months, not years. This plan was designed with busy adults in mind, and is intended to offer the best, quickest path to a good job. Graduates will receive a State of Ohio diploma from the Ohio Department of Education.

Courses are offered in manufacturing, medical technology and other high demand fields. They offer a blend of classroom setting with virtual learning, including online instruction, videoconferencing and academic coaching.

To learn more, [click here](#) to access the Ohio Department of Education.

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 169 followers on Twitter and is excited to report that Susan Bennett @SiriouslySusan, the voice of Siri on your iPhones, is one of our newest followers!

To make donations to the SWORWIB in support of Southwest Ohio workforce initiatives,

click [Here.](#)

Contact: Cheryl Brueggeman
Youth/Public Information Consultant
cbrueggeman@sworwib.org



Cincinnati -
Hamilton County



View our profile on [LinkedIn](#)