

SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

NewsWIB March 2015

Spotlight on OhioMeansJobs Center

A Day in the Life of the OMJ Center

On any given day at the OMJ Center on Central Parkway, the place could be full to the brim or having a lull as one group leaves and the next group hasn't yet arrived. On the morning of March 19, there wasn't an empty seat or room in the Center:

- 100 Mature Services Members are holding their quarterly meeting in room C
- The Census is conducting first round interviews in Room F and second round interviews in Room B
- A Hiring Event for Phoenix Data is being held with candidates in the second floor lobby and interviews in the BSU manager's office
- An Interview Preparation workshop is going on in Lab 1
- A Job Corps orientation is happening in Room A
- Medicaid partners are meeting in Room AE
- Our Deaf and Hearing Impaired workshop is happening in Lab 2

Bottom line, employers and job seekers are being served whether we're crowded or a temporary lull is in progress. Come see for yourself.

Tax Prep Saturdays



As highlighted in previous NewsWIBs, the OhioMeansJobs Center has been hosting tax preparation services every Saturday since January 31, 2015 through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Hamilton County. VITA is an IRS-sponsored program that provides under-served communities with free tax filing assistance, using IRS-certified volunteers. The services are facilitated by United Way trained/certified volunteers in collaboration with OMJ Center staff.

Tax preparation services are available from 8am-2pm on a 'first come, first served' basis for up to 25-30 people. With only three Saturdays remaining (March 28, April 4 and April 11) before tax refunds are due, the SWORWIB wishes to thank OMJ and United Way staff and volunteers for taking their time to support this worthy program.

OMJ Services Available at Easter Seals Satellite

The Easter Seals TriState satellite located in Blue Ash at 4300 Roshamin Road is now available to OMJ Center clients. The facility provides an opportunity for local adults and dislocated workers to obtain services from provided by the OhioMeansJobs Center without traveling to downtown Cincinnati.



To date, more than 20 individuals have applied for and received Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) while working with OMJ Center staff at the new location. ITAs are funded with adult and dislocated worker funds authorized under Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). ITA participants receive assessment, counseling and an individual employment plan through intensive services prior to selecting a training program. The training is limited to those skills relevant to in-demand occupations in the Southwest Ohio region.

This outreach has proven to be a positive response to the local need for expanded OhioMeansJobs services.

Saturday Firefighters Test Prep Program

OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati/Hamilton County will be hosting the Cincinnati Fire Fighters and the Black Cincinnati Fire Fighters Association Test Prep Program on Saturdays from April 18 through May 9, 2015.

These sessions are intended to provide interested candidates with information related to testing expectations and preparation. Entrance testing to become a fire fighter will

be held on 5/16 at a location that has not yet been determined. The information sessions will be held each Saturday from 9:00 am through approximately 12:30. Information is available at www.fire.recruiting@cincinnati-oh.gov or call the OMJ Center directly at 513-946-7200.

Spotlight on SWORWIB

Marshall Presents Workforce Content at Economic Development Course



President Marshall joined Bruce Madson, Assistant Director, Employment Services at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services as the workforce specialists educating economic development leaders across Ohio. The team focused on the public workforce development system, the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, career pathways and partnering with economic development leaders to assist current and prospective employers to recruit the workforce they need to grow their business. Both Marshall and Madson are returning faculty for this annual Ohio Basic Economic Development Course.

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) Requests Marshall



Left to Right: Margaret Fox, SWORWIB Board Member and MARCC Director; Sherry Kelley Marshall, SWORWIB President/CEO

President Marshall made a presentation to MARCC, an interfaith coalition which began its work in 1968, on March 11. Invited by Margaret Fox, MARCC Director and SWORWIB Board Member, Marshall shared highlights of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) legislation as well as services to adults, dislocated workers and youth prescribed under the new law. The impact of expanded services, performance measures, and the SWORWIB's new dynamics, including the Board's roles and responsibilities, were also discussed.

Mayor's Youth Career Path Expo



Mayor John Cranley held the Youth Career Path Expo on Saturday, March 14, to offer job-related information and advice to young people between the ages of 14 and 18.

The free event featured more than 50 vendors to provide information about possible jobs - including with the City's Youth 2 Work program -- and offered career advice for youth. Also, workshops and booths were available about summer internships, along with volunteer opportunities, learning about ways to obtain a post-secondary education and also find mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities.

The event was held 8 a.m. to Noon at the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency located at 1740 Langdon Farm Road in Bond Hill. Mayor Cranley and State Rep. Alicia Reece were on hand to greet young people.

"I know it can be difficult sometimes for young people to get information about what jobs are available or about what types of help are out there for going to college or get job training," Mayor Cranley said. "My Youth Career Path Expo is a great way to have all of that accessible under one roof. I encourage young people to attend, learn and have a good time."

Summer Youth Employment Programs

Applications are NOW available online for summer youth employment program. The PRC TANF 2015 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) allows eligible Hamilton County youth to obtain paid summer employment.



Under new WIOA youth must be provided a summer youth work experience, with a focus on career pathways. The SWORWIB is working with the OMJ Center, Hamilton County JFS and youth providers to bring more youth into the SYEP program this year.

Although City and County youth programs run at different times and lengths during the summer, the two agencies collaborate to serve as many youth as possible with summer employment.

Under the New Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, youth must participate in real work experience, with a focus on career pathways. Moreover, work experience is expected to be year round, not just in the summer.

ROCK TENN Transition Center Coaches Dislocated Workers for Their Next Careers



Left Side, Morris Grubbs with President Marshall and Rock Tenn Employees at the Transition Center

The Rock Tenn Transition Center completed several months of rapid response services to 63 employees. Employment transition services included assessments, certification training, resume preparation, job search, interview techniques and employer outreach.

Cheryl Brueggeman, SWORWIB Public Information Coordinator, had the opportunity to meet with several of the Rock Tenn employees, during a Rock Tenn Job Social in March. Compliments about the transition center staff reflected the dedicated services received from LIFT and OhioMeansJobs Center staff and kudos were repeated for Kate Lindsay, Cathy Metcalf, Betty Robinson, Dave Williams and Leah Winkler all of whom created an environment where employees could envision next steps for their careers. Comments shared by James Morris, a 14 ♦ year Rock Tenn worker, and Brian Anderson, who had 16 ♦ years at Rock Tenn, included, "they held our hands in a time of uncertainty" and "supports were wonderful."

In an interview with Morris Grubbs, a Rock Tenn employee for 6 ♦ years, he discussed the day of the layoffs. He shared that his first thoughts were "I have no clue what to do with my resume. I have skills but how do I prove that to a future employer?" With the supports of LIFT and OMJ Center staff, Morris completed Certified Production Technician (CPT), Certified Logistics Technician (CLT) and the Certiport Microsoft Office Specialist Certification with a 98% pass rate. In addition, he scored very high on the National Career Readiness Credential, which provided Morris with a "portfolio" of skills and certifications to take to future employers. His next career step is to obtain his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and work for a local trucking company. He's looking forward to a steady job with a set schedule and more time with his family.

Grubbs isn't unique in his experience with the Transition Center and many other workers shared their success with learning about computers, online application and training, learning new industry credentials and interviews for their next careers.

Kevin Holt and Brandi Scott Herrmann were impressed with their Transition Center contracted operator who partnered well with OMJ staff to redirect the talents and dedication of the Rock Tenn workforce to their new opportunities.

Short Takes:

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber invites small businesses to spend one hour designed to put money back in businesses. Top officials from the State of Ohio will present a seminar on April 2, 2015 at the Chamber location, 3 East Fourth Street, The Learning Center, Cincinnati, OH 45202. To RSVP, [Click here.](#)

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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!

Donations can be made to the SWORWIB to support Southwest Ohio workforce initiatives by contacting Sherry Kelley Marshall, President/CEO at smarshall@sworwib.org.

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