President Marshall attended the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) Conference in Orlando, Florida from May 24-26 to receive the H.G. Weisman leadership award for innovation in workforce development. The award recognizes exceptional services to the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals and the field of workforce development. Hank Weisman served as the first Chair of the Board of Directors of NAWDP where his vision, confidence and inspirational leadership were greatly
In her acceptance speech, Sherry shared the SWORWIB’s cutting edge experiences of the last seven years, many of which are embedded in the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014.

Spotlight on Employers

Diversified Labeling Solutions

New Hires

When Sekuworks in Harrison, Ohio began to downsize, the OhioMeansJobs Center stepped in with rapid response services to support dislocated workers. Two of Sekuworks' employees soon found employment opportunities through On-the-Job training at Diversified Labeling Solutions.

Patricia Dehne was hired as an Office Assistant and Tina Jackson as a Finisher. These employment opportunities confirm that there is a wide array of positions available for women to enter careers in manufacturing.

OMJ Outreach to Fifth Third Bank

At the recommendation of Board member and Fifth Bank Senior VP and Director of Talent Acquisition, Shawn Harter, OhioMeansJobs staff, Kathleen Busemeyer, Leah White and Darryl Gaither, met with Dave Nuzzo, VP and Senior Talent Acquisition Manager, to discuss collaboration between the bank and OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County.
VP Nuzzo encouraged his team to reach out to OMJ during recruitment activities. OMJ staff then connected with Kathy Walker, a team member in Fifth Third Operations, who herself was a client of OMJ during a recent period of unemployment. Ms. Walker has committed to personally meeting with Fifth Third job candidates who might potentially qualify for OMJ programs such as On-the-Job Training (OJT), Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Hiring Our Vets.

Outreach projects such as the one with Fifth Third will enhance OMJ's efforts to deliver a "one stop shop" experience to local employers. Extra kudos to Board member Harter for the connection.

**Spotlight on OhioMeansJobs**

**Job Corps Students Tour OhioMeansJobs Center**

On May 13, 2016, Sharon Littlejohn, Career Preparation Instructor at the Cincinnati Job Corps Center, and Dan Davis brought students to an orientation at OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County. Students toured the center's resource center, computer lab, instructional classrooms and met with OMJ staff discussing their future after Job Corps.

Ms. Littlejohn encouraged the students to ask questions about what OhioMeansJobs can do for them as they prepare for their careers. OMJ staff demonstrated all of the features of the [ohiomeansjobs.com](http://ohiomeansjobs.com) website for the students and shared education, training and employment opportunities funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, TANF and other resources available to youth.

During the months of March through May, 68 Job Corps students have visited the OMJ Center.

**Spotlight on Youth**

**Cincinnati Public Schools ABLE GED Graduation**

On May 18, the CPS ABLE program celebrated its GED graduates at the Xavier University Cintas Center. More than 50 students received their GED during 2016. Family, friends, and staff attended the event and shared in the excitement of the students' achievements.

Roberta Thomas, CPS ABLE Director and SWORWIB board member, welcomed the students and congratulated them on the hard work, determination and
perseverance it took to pass the 2014 GED. The computerized test version is more rigorous than the previous version and consists of four separate exams. Test preparation is the key to mastering the exam content. ABLE instructors and volunteers spend months with each student as they learn new content, take practice exams and prepare themselves to take the actual exams - often more than once - all at a cost, both mentally and financially.

Scholarships were awarded to Brandee Wright and Corey Keels during the ceremony, and students shared their stories of barriers and successes along the way to completing their GED. Most inspiring were their plans for the future.

Congratulations to the 2016 CPS ABLE GED graduates.

Literacy Center West
Students Take Field Test for McGraw-Hill

CTB/McGraw-Hill, LLC reached out to SWORWIB youth providers to ask for volunteer students to participate in the Adult Education Field Test last winter.

Lyndsi Fitzsimmons and Rachel Mousie, LCW instructors, took on the challenge of soliciting student test takers and proctored the test, which consisted of several sections. During early Spring months, students took the reading portion which allotted 4.6 hours for the section; however, most students were able to complete the reading portion online between 1-1.5 hours. Students also reported that some parts of the test were identical and that duplicate questions were on both the written and online sections of the test.

Lyndsi and Rachel provided all of the feedback to CTB McGraw-Hill, which will prove valuable to the company as they finalize the Adult Education Test components.

Although the project took longer than expected, students received gift cards for their efforts as well as a meaningful test taking experience.
On April 29...
President Marshall attended the Ceremonial Opening of the First Estonian Honorary Consulate for the states of Ohio and Kentucky. The event was held at the Queen City Club in downtown Cincinnati.

The ceremonies celebrated the appointment of Hon. Mary B. Nippert of Cincinnati, Ohio, as the first ever Estonian Honorary Consul to Ohio and Kentucky. In her 30's, she is one of the youngest Honorary Consuls to the United States.

The establishment of an Honorary Consulate in Ohio and Kentucky by Estonia is of importance because of the significant manufacturing, agriculture and technology base in the region, as well as the large number of internationally important universities located in the two states.

On May 6..
In collaboration with New Horizons Computer Learning Center in Blue Ash, the SWORWIB released the announcement of six IT scholarships for qualifying residents of Hamilton County.

For more information and a link to the scholarship application, click here.

On May 12...
The SWORWIB held its quarterly meeting at the OhioMeansJobs Center Cincinnati-Hamilton County. 54 board members, guests, SWORWIB and OMJ staff attended the meeting. Updates on current projects and initiatives of the SWORWIB were reviewed. In support of jobseekers with disabilities, the Office of Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) previewed "Windmills" training for the Board as an introduction to expanding services for people with disabilities at the OMJ Center.

At the end of the meeting, President Marshall was treated to a birthday celebration with cake and song.
**Short Takes**

1) **Hamilton County's Loss is Washington’s Gain:**
DeAnna Hoskins, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Re-entry Department, is headed to Washington D.C.

A Proclamation Ceremony and a reception immediately following will honor Director Hoskins for her service to Hamilton County and celebrate her appointment as Senior Policy Advisor for Corrections/Reentry. The event will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 11:00am, County Administration Building, 138 E. Court Street 6th Floor, Board Chambers, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

**In the Media**

1) **May 10, 2016 SWORWIB/New Horizons Scholarship** Cincinnati Enquirer announcement written by Fatima Hussein, Enquirer reporter. To read the article, [click here.](#)

2) **Cincinnati State announced its new Welding Lab.** For more on this story in the Cincinnati Enquirer, [click here.](#)

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**Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!**

The SWORWIB has a Facebook page where we post news, pictures, events and up-to-date information @ [https://www.facebook.com/sworwib](https://www.facebook.com/sworwib).

Also, follow us on Twitter @CincyWorkforce and we'll keep you informed throughout the month. The SWORWIB now has over 200 followers - newest followers include the College of Professional Studies at Shawnee State University and Precision Staffing Services.

**Donations Appreciated**

The SWORWIB is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Would you or your organization like to support the continued success of the workforce board? To make a donation (tax deductible) to the SWORWIB in support of Cincinnati-Hamilton County workforce initiatives, [click here.](#)

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