

SWORWIB

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

NewsWIB November 2015

Spotlight on Workforce Partners

Regional Partners Awarded \$250,000 Planning Grant for Ohio Adult Diploma Program

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and its regional partners have been awarded a \$250,000 planning grant from the State of Ohio Department of Education to plan the Southwest Ohio Adult Diploma program, a new alternative offered by the State to help adults ages 22 or older earn their high school diplomas and train for in-demand careers simultaneously.

The SWORWIB encouraged Cincinnati State to apply for this grant and assure that citizens of the City of Cincinnati specifically are provided this exciting alternative diploma. We are grateful to CSTCC, Cincinnati Public Schools, Great Oaks and our OhioMeansJobs Center leadership for focusing on this need in our community and gathering a unique partnership to deliver this state option to our citizens.

The partners will utilize the planning grant to convene local stakeholders, particularly prospective adults interested in earning the Ohio Adult Diploma, to plan how to best recruit potential students, assess their current knowledge and address potential challenges such as illiteracy. They also will engage industry leaders to determine the most in-demand jobs in the region and identify the types of certifications graduates need to qualify for those positions.

State data shows that Ohio adults without high school diplomas are twice as likely to

live in poverty as those with diplomas. In Ohio especially, data shows that high school level career-technical education programs are effective in preparing students for success in college and careers. More information about the Ohio Adult Diploma can be found at <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Media-Releases/Adults-Can-Get-A-High-School-Diploma-While-Earning>.

More information about specific plans for the Southwest Ohio Adult Diploma will be forthcoming in early 2016.

Update on WIOA

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2015

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law on July 22, 2014, is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in 15 years. WIOA presents an extraordinary opportunity to improve job and career options for our nation's workers and jobseekers through an integrated, job-driven public workforce system that links diverse talent to businesses. It supports the development of strong, vibrant regional economies where businesses thrive and people want to live and work. WIOA furthers a high quality one-stop center system by continuing to align investments in workforce, education, and economic development.

The new law places greater emphasis on one-stops achieving results for jobseekers, workers, and businesses. WIOA reinforces the partnerships and strategies necessary for one stops to provide job seekers and workers with the high-quality career services, education and training, and supportive services they need to get good jobs and stay employed, and to help businesses find skilled workers and access other supports, including education and training for their current workforce.

WIOA also outlines a broader youth vision that supports an integrated service delivery system and gives a framework through which states and local areas can leverage other federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources to support in-school and out-of-school youth. WIOA affirms the Department's commitment to providing high quality services for youth and young adults beginning with career exploration and guidance, continued support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training in in-demand industries and occupations, and culminating with a good job along a career pathway or enrollment in post-secondary education.

For more information on WIOA, [click here](#).

Spotlight on Youth

"Youth Lives Matter"

On November 16, President Marshall and Alicia Tidwell, SWORWIB Board member, attended the "Youth Lives Matter" at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The program was designed to spur dialogue on issues impacting youth locally and present concrete solutions to improvement outcomes in the following key areas:



- Safely reducing youth arrest and detention rates
- Improving youth/police relationships
- Improving educational opportunities
- Reducing racial disparities at key points
- Facilitating successful youth re-entry

Featured Speakers included:

- Carter Stewart, *U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio*
- Lisa H. Thureau, Esq., *Founder & ED of Strategies for Youth*
- James Bell, *Founder & ED of the W. Haywood Burns Institute*
- Garien Gatewood, J.D., *Youth Reentry Advocate of the Children's Law Center*

*The event was hosted by Children's Law Center, Inc., a non-profit legal service center protecting the rights of children and youth to help them overcome barriers and transition into adulthood, better advocate for their needs and successfully contribute to society. For more information, [**visit their website!**](#)*

Spotlight on Youth

*CYC/Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates
Leadership Development Conference*



Toi C. Jones, President and CEO Solutions Officer, Onyx Sourcing Solutions
and CYC Board Vice Chairperson

On Saturday, November 14, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative hosted a Leadership Development Conference where JCG students participated in leadership building activities to train newly elected senior class officers. The goals of the conference were to prepare the new leaders in the areas of leadership development; career preparation; civic/community affairs; social/group recreation; and community/service learning. The new officers attended workshops specific to their newly elected positions. Following the workshops, the officers were sworn in and recognized for their future leadership positions.

Toi C. Jones, CYC Board Vice Chairperson, was the keynote speaker who shared her leadership development tips on building a career based on knowledge, skills and passion. Approximately 75 students attended the event.

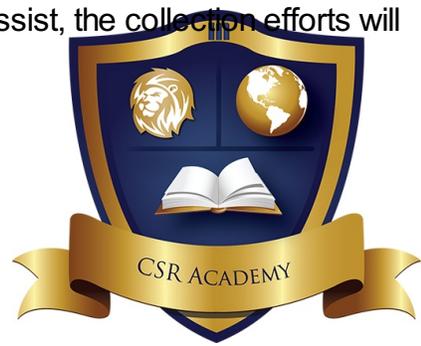
Spotlight on OMJ Center

Veterans Services Collect School Supplies for Cincinnati Speech and Reading Academy

The Cincinnati Speech and Reading Academy (CSR Academy) is located next to the OhioMeansJobs Center - Cincinnati/Hamilton County on Central Parkway in Over-the-Rhine. Earlier this fall, The OMJ Veterans group collected school supplies for CSR Academy students.

Based on the response and the continued interest to assist, the collection efforts will start again, but this time to collect cold/flu season supplies to donate to the CSR Academy in efforts to continue giving back to the community.

The drive is open to all partners in the building and is on a voluntary basis only. Starting on Monday November 23, 2015, the collection box will be available in the Veterans Services area of the OMJ Center.



Spotlight on Workforce

Update on TechHire Initiative



\$100 million grant for TechHire cities and \$50 million for youth

Cincinnati is one of more than 20 communities across the country to receive the TechHire designation. The designation makes Cincinnati eligible to receive a portion of \$100 million in grant money intended to develop pathways to well-paying tech jobs.

So far, cities like New York City, Detroit, San Francisco, Portland and Louisville have stepped up and responded to the President's call-to-action. Cincinnati is one of 10 cities taking part in the second TechHire cohort.

On November 17, U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force Broderick Johnson, and Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to announce new steps to advance the President's TechHire initiative and expand opportunities for young Americans to get trained and placed into well-paying tech jobs. With a plan for \$50 million in youth tech grants, the goal is to engage younger employees in IT focused careers.

America has about 5.5 million jobs open today. Over half a million job openings are in information fields such as software development, network administration, and cybersecurity - rapidly

growing sectors with many more jobs than just a decade ago. Whether in manufacturing, advertising, retail or banking, the average salary in a job that requires information technology (IT) skills is 50 percent higher than the average private-sector American job.

For more information about the TechHire initiative locally, [click here.](#)

Short Takes:

National Skills Coalition Celebrates 15 Years of Impact: Since 2000, the National Skills Coalition has mobilized a diverse - and growing - national network around a shared vision for an America where every worker and every industry has the skills to compete and prosper relying on partnerships, networks, and support to sustain success and further impact.

YouthBuild Open House: To be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 from 5pm to 7pm. The program presentation begins at 6pm. The location is:

Lighthouse Youth Services
401 East McMillan Street
Cincinnati, OH 45206

RSVP to Debbie Smith dsmith@eastersealstristate.org
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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!

To make donations to the SWORWIB in support of Southwest Ohio workforce initiatives, click [Here.](#)

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