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REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT SWORWIB President & CEO Sherry Kelley Marshall to Retire December 31, 2020

The Board of Directors of Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) has announced its leader, **President & CEO Sherry Kelley Marshall** will retire December 31, 2020.

Marshall leads Ohio's third largest metro city workforce board in the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) law to increase opportunities for individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment; support alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems; provide workers with the skills and credentials to secure and advance employment; promote improvement in the structure and delivery of services; increase the prosperity of workers and employers; increase employment retention and earnings; and the attainment of in-demand occupational credentials. Marshall also oversees the physical facility of the 45,000 square-foot OhioMeansJobs Center on Central Parkway and coordinates procured services for the OMJ Center, youth providers and others.

Marshall will be available in a consultative capacity through June 2021 to help ensure a seamless transition.

“For 20 years, Sherry Kelley Marshall has led the way in public workforce innovation in southwest Ohio,” shares SWORWIB Chair Laurence Jones, President & CEO of RiskVersity. “She is both developer and steward of private, state and national funding and has over the years attracted and managed nearly \$200 million for initiatives that remove barriers to employment, connect jobseekers with employers and create prosperity. Programs like the Midwest Urban Strategies Consortium which worked with manufacturers to build apprenticeship programs through NIMS, and the continuation and growth of Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (JCG) wouldn’t have occurred without her focus, and our region owes a huge debt for her tireless efforts.”

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“I am so appreciative of the opportunity to make this region I call ‘home’ better,” states Marshall. “Removing barriers to employment depends on strong collaboration between employers, educators and social service agencies, and I am tremendously honored by the commitment of the SWORWIB Board Members to keeping our region strong.”

She continues, “I thank our Board, Veteran Services team, state partners, Aspire, Great Oaks, Dohn, Talbert House and many others throughout our service area for their support and commitment to our region and our workforce efforts over the year – and especially over the past 10 months. Amidst a global pandemic and economic meltdown, our staff, employers and youth providers delivered service and answers in the most challenging of times. I am proud of their efforts, results and resiliency.”

In 1975, Marshall worked for Miami Purchase Association after graduating from college and later for the OKI Council of Government. She began her career at the City of Cincinnati Department of Housing and Conservation in 1981 serving as a key staff leader for Stimulating Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP) made possible by a multi-year Mott Foundation grant. During this time, she led the development of Invest in Neighborhoods, a public-private partnership to strengthen the city, and was a founder of the “Day in Eden” fundraiser. She helped established fundraising for the city’s neighborhoods and led the delivery of \$250,000 to establish the Neighborhood Fund inside the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Sherry accepted a position with Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation/NeighborWorks America Great Lakes District in 1985. Over the next 14 years, Marshall honed her skills as a start-up and dissolution specialist at the regional and national level. Her well-earned reputation as a neighborhood revitalization expert produced an opportunity to lead the city of Knoxville’s Empowerment Zone efforts, where she served as Executive Director of the Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement until December 2000, when she was recruited by mentor, friend and then-Chamber President John Williams to return to Cincinnati to build southwest Ohio’s workforce development services efforts. Working as a loaned executive in the Chamber’s offices, Sherry led efforts for both the Chamber and the newly-established SWORWIB under federal workforce legislation to ensure resources and opportunity access for Veterans, job seekers and employers, educators, students, in-school and out-of-school youth, formerly incarcerated people and other disenfranchised individuals.

Dr. Ronald Wright, former President of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, was attracted to Marshall’s service approach, track record of developing innovative solutions and solid public-private partnerships. In 2004, Marshall was recruited as CSTCC’s Executive Dean where she continued the pivotal work of developing a sustainable workforce.

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In late 2007, when SWORWIB was at risk due to performance, audits and IRS filings, Marshall was recruited to return the entity to solvency by rebuilding the Board, re-establishing employer relationships, youth services and success metrics. Since 2007, she has been a driver of partnerships that have to-date attracted nearly \$200 million for the development of workforce initiatives. Cincinnati's progress in the workforce world has been noteworthy and referenced by the Department of Labor, the Government Accountability Office, the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, National Association of Workforce Boards, Ohio Economic Development Association, and the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council.

Shawn Harter, Senior Vice President, Fifth Third Bancorp, who served on SWORWIB's board, shares, "Sherry Kelley Marshall and her tireless dedication not only to the organization, but our wonderful region, have moved the needle in making ours a dynamic, workforce-ready region, now challenged in the COVID era."

Terry Phillips, Executive Director of Allied Construction Industries (ACI), offers, "Sherry is a community champion whose initiatives have improved the quality of life for at risk, disadvantaged and underserved populations throughout our community. She has pioneered innovative programs to address and surmount workforce barriers by promoting access to resources and increasing awareness of in-demand, high-paying jobs and the educational path necessary to attainment. Sherry's legacy in our region is one of progress, results and continued vitality. While her retirement will be a void, her untiring efforts have established a firm guidepost for generations to come.

The Board will recognize Marshall in 2021 with a "special retirement remembrance roast". Anyone wanting to share a story or farewell remarks may contact **Karen Saterfield** at ksaterfield@SWORWIB.org.

About Sherry Kelley Marshall

Sherry was born in the coal-mining region of Harlan, Kentucky on May 15, 1953. When work became scarce, her father moved to Dayton, Ohio for a manufacturing job and her mother moved Sherry and seven siblings to Cincinnati.

Sherry earned a B.A. in 1975 from Earlham College and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati, as well as an Evaluation Credential.

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Marshall has been a Research Partner with ACT, the national organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. She also served on the board of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, which awarded Marshall one of its highest honors: the H.G. Weisman Award in 2016. In 2013, Marshall won the Ohio Economic Development Council Workforce Innovation Award and was recognized with the WIB Grand Excellence Prize from the National Association of Workforce Boards.

She and her husband, Dan, live in Finneytown. Their son, Bret, graduated from Finneytown High School as Salutatorian. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Earlham College with a computer science degree, minoring in both Math and Physics. Recognized as a NCAA Scholar Athlete, Bret was a member of the 2013 NCAA Conference winning team, was awarded the Lauren DeCou Most Valuable Player First Year Award and holds a coveted NCAA diamond ring.

After college, Bret returned to Cincinnati where he completed data analytics training. Today, Bret is Associate Manager of Software Engineering with the Health Carousel, the 12th fastest-growing healthcare staffing and workforce solutions firm in the U.S. In his spare time, Bret serves as the Head Coach for the Finneytown Girls' Soccer Team. Additionally, Bret plays on the men's soccer team he organized of former elite and college male teammates.

About SWORWIB

Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) is a 501c3, Ohio-chartered nonprofit organization serving Cincinnati and Hamilton County. SWORWIB implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), legislation designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help connect all Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, to high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain the skilled workers they need.

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See attached photo, courtesy of Julie Lubbers