

Newsletter for Region 4



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Workforce Investment Board of West Central Indiana

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Advancing Manufacturing Project—*Certified Production*

A new project to train production technicians has entered the final development stage. The program will address the shortage of qualified production candidates available to the Region's Manufacturers. Specific issues the program seeks to resolve include: lack of manufacturing experience, lack of technical skills related to manufacturing, high turnover during the initial employment phase, candidate specifications, and a formalized on-boarding process for new employees.

A partnership of WorkOne/REACH, Ivy Tech, industrial partners, staffing firms, and Greater Lafayette Commerce will collaborate in the project's implementation and

delivery. A Certified Production Technician Program (MSSC) curriculum has been developed and consists of:

- Four modules delivered over two months at 20 hours per week.
- Modules consist of hands-on and classroom activities delivered by Ivy Tech and industry partners.
- Module disciplines include: Quality Practices & Measurement; Safety; Manufacturing Processes & Production; and Maintenance Awareness.

We are especially proud of this partnership that will soon be announced to the general public. We are ad-

ressing the need to close the skills gap between the skills required by the manufacturing sector and the skills of the current workforce. This is going to be accomplished through innovative training and recruitment strategies. This new initiative, entitled Advanced Manufacturing, will connect job seekers and manufacturers and allow for job seekers in search of more training and education to better themselves. This unique initiative is a dynamic partnership between industry, K-12 schools, the Ivy Tech Corporate College, economic and workforce development leaders, and elected officials.

Workforce Board Meeting Schedule

- JANUARY 17, 2012*
- MARCH 21, 2012***
- MAY 24, 2012****
- JULY 17, 2012****
- SEPTEMBER 19, 2012****
- NOVEMBER 15, 2012****

LOCATION

*LAFAYETTE - IVY TECH'S CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT CENTER @ 823 PARK E. BLVD. FROM 8:00—10:00 A.M.

***DELPHI—WABASH & ERIE CANAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER @ 1030 N WASHINGTON STREET FROM 8:30—10:30 A.M.

****LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Mayors Featured at WIB Annual Dinner

Executive Director, Roger Feldhaus, presented the Workforce Board's annual report to a regional audience of over 180 attendees on November 16th in Lafayette. This was a record attendance for the Annual Dinner.

Highlights of the evening included the presentation of the

Aging Worker Initiative's Maturity Matters Employer of the Year Award to Anita and Lou Schafer of Schoolhouse Partners, LLC for the company's value of mature workers as exhibited by their policies and practices.

The evening finale featured a conversation with the Mayors

of Lafayette and Kokomo who discussed the synergistic results achieved by their cities when a variety of agencies and organizations, public and private, collaborate with shared purpose and goals for workforce and economic development. Photos from the evening may be seen on page 3.



Left to right: Mayor Tony Roswarski of Lafayette, Mayor Greg Goodnight of Kokomo, and Scott Hutcheson of PCRD

Youth Council Members

- Randy Vernon, Chair
- Kevin Summers, Vice Chair
- Robert Taylor, member
- Jeffrey Lipinski, member
- Valeria Wallace, member
- Anita Stewart, member
- Terri Simons, member
- Lisa Minier, member
- Jeremy Ashcraft, member
- Kelly Williams, member
- Sascha Harrell, member

A Career Pathway for Regional Youth: *Healthcare*

A subcommittee of the WIB's Youth Council is developing a Healthcare Careers Pathway for the region's youth. According to Deb Waymire, "The goal of the health career pathway initiative is to increase the number of youth entering healthcare occupations to meet the acute workforce shortage projected in health occupations."

The subcommittee believes that they can get youth interested in, and working toward a career in the health industry

by providing information on the various healthcare occupations and engaging them in healthcare camps, job shadowing and internships. Waymire says, "It's important that we are speaking a language, and conveying the look that will attract our target population—disadvantaged youth." JAG students fit the profile of the youth we seek to attract to the Healthcare Careers Pathway, so we want to include their insights and design ideas within the market-

ing publications. Students who are currently enrolled in the JAG program will be invited to submit cover layout designs for the Healthcare Careers Pathway Guide. The idea is two fold. It will provide JAG students an opportunity to connect their skills and educational experiences with a project that will be utilized in our regional community, and help introduce the regional healthcare careers pathway to youth, parents, and high school counselors.

One-Stop Partner Agency Spotlight *Vocational Rehabilitative Services*

Vocational and Rehabilitative Services (VRS) is a program of the Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services, and the Family & Social Services Administration. The Workforce Investment Act specifies VRS as a mandatory partner of the One-Stop delivery system. This system seeks to unify training, education and employ-

ment programs into a single system in each community that adds value for its customers by providing a seamless delivery of numerous services.

Persons eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services include:

- persons who have a physical or mental impairment;

- persons whose impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment;
 - persons who can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from the provision of vocational rehabilitation services and,
 - persons who require services to help prepare for gainful employment.
- For more information contact: Fred Williams at: 765-449-4278.



Fred Williams
Area 6 Supervisor Vocational Rehabilitative Services and Region 4 WIB Director

WorkOne Programs are Changing Lives

Seeger High School was the job sight for seven Warren County youth last summer. A win-win was created with a summer youth jobs program, delivered and administered by the Workforce Board's service provider, Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI). Seven, seventeen year olds participated in a paid work experience that provided their alma

mater, Seeger High School, with free labor for a construction project at the high school. Wages were paid by the summer youth job program. Students assisted the construction process by relocating 15 classrooms in preparation for an inside construction project at Seeger. The youth also completed projects that had been put off because of time, money or manpower, such as: cleaning, painting, landscaping, moving and rewiring computer labs, moving furniture, and assisted the construction crews. In addition to the work experience, the seven completed an online career readiness program and attended a variety of job search workshops provided by WorkOne. The youth earned wages for their work experience and, in the words of Principal Dan Nelson, "These former students worked hard to reorganize and beautify Seeger."

"These former students worked hard to help reorganize and beautify Seeger."

Seeger H.S. Principal

Dan Nelson

Reported by The Review Republican

The Workforce Board and Its Committees

The 31 members of the region's Workforce Investment Board (WIB) provide a breadth of representation not present on the former 16 member Regional Workforce Board. The Board is still business led, there are 17 directors from the business sector. The other 14 directors represent a variety of Workforce Investment Act mandated partners, and labor, education, economic development, and commu-

nity/faith based organizations. The Board's composition helps provide a balanced, real world perspective that enhances the one-stop career center education and training initiatives by its oversight, administration, and the diverse perspectives of the 31 directors.

The WIB has established several committees to address specific issues of

oversight, areas of importance to the WIB, and create an effective and efficiently run Board. The committees enhance problem solving, vetting of an issue, idea generation, and 360 degree communication with the Board. Committee Chairs report out at every Board of Director's meeting on the activities of their committee, and make recommendations to the

full-board for further discussion or a vote.

The board has established the following standing committees:

1. Executive
2. Finance
3. Youth Council
4. Personnel
5. One-Stop Operator Oversight

Second Annual Forum for Elected Officials

Elected officials of Region 4 gathered in September for the 2nd Annual Local Elected Officials Forum. The Forum was co-hosted by the Region's Workforce Board and Economic Development Officials.

Connie Neining, Co-Chair of Midwest Indiana, told of the importance of the consortium's shared resources in creating competitive ad-

vantage for business retention and attraction efforts. The consortium consists of: Pulaski, White, Cass, Carroll, Benton, Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Warren and Fountain counties

Jeb Conrad, Chair of North Central Economic Development Partnership, comprised of Cass, Clinton, Fulton, Howard, Miami, and Tipton counties, told how

the partnership links with business, government, industry, education, and technology to excel in the global marketplace.

Jay Walters, President of Bingham Economic Development Advisors, shared the site selection process with the LEOs, and identified the top ten site selection factors. Key factors associated with site selection include labor

costs, state and local incentives, highway accessibility and the availability of skilled labor.

According to Michael Weishaar, Vice President of Cassidy Turley, the number one question by business prospects is, "How do I get there, and how do I get stuff in?" Conveying that transportation infrastructure is vital to business attraction.

Images of Program Year 2010 Annual Dinner



WIB Chair, Jim Hardison welcomes attendees of the Board's Annual Dinner.



Executive Director, Roger Feldhaus applauding the achievement of WorkOne program participants.



Left to right: Mayor Roswarski of Lafayette, Mayor Goodnight of Kokomo and Scott Hutcheson of Purdue's Center for Research and Development.