



Illinois Workforce Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

VISIONARIES FOR...



Tomorrow's Workforce



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As I write this letter, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that over the past year the workforce in our state has grown by 12,000 workers. In August 2007, Illinois had 6.715 million people in our workforce, and in August 2008 that workforce had grown to 6.727 million people. Unfortunately, during this same period, the number of Illinois unemployed has grown from approximately 350,000 (5.2%), to approximately 490,000 (7.3%) workers. Illinois exceeded the national unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in August 2007 and 6.1 percent in August 2008.

Looking optimistically at our situation, we could say Illinois has no labor shortage. Many job seekers are interested in learning new skills that are needed to fill the thousands of jobs available in growth industries and skill shortage areas such as manufacturing, logistics, and health care. Recent reports show continued growth in these middle-skilled level occupations.

Therein lies the paradox we face in our goal to support economic growth through workforce development. Along with the increase in Illinois unemployed seeking new jobs comes over \$10 million worth of cuts in workforce development funds. Along with the budget cuts are reductions in services provided by local workforce agencies to those seeking access to the very training needed by them to fill the jobs that are in growth and skill shortage industries.

Now is the time for all of us who are stakeholders in workforce development to further develop and strengthen our strategic alliances. We all must begin working toward a common goal of ensuring sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of our business and job seeker customers in order to assure a competitive and prosperous Illinois. IWP is committed to establishing new and nurturing existing alliances with local and state agencies and elected officials, as well as state and national economic and workforce development organizations. Together we can turn our vision into reality.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Williams
President

Our Vision...

Our vision is for Illinois to have a state-wide “ high-quality, employer-driven, innovative, proactive workforce development system that supports economic development.”

Our Mission...

As members of the Illinois Workforce Partnership, our mission is to:

- ◆ Promote the sharing of information among Workforce Investment Boards, Chief Elected Officials, Workforce Partners and other interested parties.
- ◆ Formulate policy positions that impact Local Workforce Investment Areas and communicate those positions at both the state and federal level.
- ◆ Actively promote employment and training, economic development and educational systems.
- ◆ Enhance local systems by aggressively pursuing coordination, resource sharing and the reduction of duplicated services.
- ◆ Provide input into the formulation of state guidelines and procedures, that directly affect Local Workforce Investment Areas.
- ◆ Address local employment and training, economic development, welfare reform and educational issues.
- ◆ Work with federal, state and local entities to ensure continuous quality staff development.

Strategic Priorities

- ◆ Proactively track and influence Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization.
- ◆ Initiate and strengthen key relationships.
- ◆ Promote revenue enhancements.
- ◆ Publicize the workforce development mission and vision.
- ◆ Provide ongoing workforce system development.

IWP Committees

- ◆ EXECUTIVE
- ◆ COMMUNICATIONS
- ◆ FUTURE TRENDS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT
- ◆ LEGISLATIVE
- ◆ PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
- ◆ RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
- ◆ SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT



Left to right: Mike Connelly, Dupage County Board Member, U.S. Congresswomen Judy Bigger, Jim Pandolfi, Dupage Workforce Board Chairman.



Left to right: Chuck Stewart, Workforce Development Board Director (LWIA 13), U.S. Congressman George Miller, Blance Shoup, Director of the Workforce Investment Office in Western Illinois (LWIA 14).



Rob Benedict of Mechanical Service, Inc. receives the Business Recognition Award from Michelle Rayburn, Workforce Investment Board Chair for LWIA 14.

Communications

CHAIR — ROBYN MCCOY

Purpose: *Develop a comprehensive marketing and public relations plan for promotion of IWP and provide marketing and public relations support for all other committees.*

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Implemented a marketing plan for IWP.
- ◆ Provided marketing and public relations support for the "Hit the Hill" Event.
- ◆ Designed and organized the IWP exhibit at the Illinois Workforce Conference.
- ◆ Created marketing materials for monthly distribution to legislators at the Capitol Building in Springfield.
- ◆ Represented IWP on the State of Illinois workNet Marketing Task Force.
- ◆ Continue to maintain and update IWP Web site with information and resources.

Future Trends

CO-CHAIRS — VICKI GORDON/JIM McSHANE

Purpose: *Identify and examine strategic trends and issues of future impact to the state or local workforce development system.*

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Completed a concept paper for IWP on what regionalism means to the workforce system and how regional approaches should be implemented.
- ◆ Completed a concept paper on developing and formalizing strategic alliances between IWP and Education, Employment, Economic Development and other partners as one method for enhancing IWP's role and moving forward with our goals.
- ◆ Completed the annual work plan for the IWP to move forward with implementing its strategic alliance vision.
- ◆ Conducted two Book Club Roundtables: Tough Choices, Tough Times — The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce by the National Center on Education and the Economy ; and The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent by Richard Florida.

Legislative Committee

CHAIR — PAULA NACHTRIEB

Purpose: *Proactively track and influence state and federal legislation.*

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Organized regular visits by IWP members to the Capitol and Stratton buildings to distribute IWP materials.
- ◆ Hosted the 6th annual Legislative Reception in Springfield, Illinois with Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- ◆ Worked with local legislators in crafting a House Resolution designating the week of August 24, 2008 as "Workforce Development Week".
- ◆ Hosted "Hit the Hill II" informational session for Local Workforce Investment Boards and CEO's in February 2008 at the NAWB conference.
- ◆ Fostered relationships with key legislators.

- ◆ Hosted a reception for the Department of Labor Region V Director.
- ◆ Met with legislators and staff to educate them on the issues relating to: workforce funding; 21st century workforce development systems; strategic regional partnerships and the value of local workforce investment boards.

Performance Task Force

CHAIR — BRUCE MARSTEN

Purpose: *Assure members of IWP are pro-active in managing Title IB programs.*

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Showcased various performance methods and tools from several local areas.
- ◆ Continued to be an effective link between local performance managers and DCEO.
- ◆ Promoted a more proactive approach to attaining performance goals.
- ◆ Provided a forum to better understand and create strategies for meeting the new Literacy and Numeracy Gain measure.
- ◆ Hosted presentations by vendors that provide remediation services designed for the Literacy and Numeracy Gain measure.

Resource Development

CHAIR — GARY CICCIU

Purpose: *To obtain, plan and allocate resources in order to maintain fiscal integrity.*

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Completed Audit and all change over forms from previous Treasurer.
- ◆ Reviewed all Committee Budgets.
- ◆ Reviewed Job Description of proposed IWP Staff person.
- ◆ Distributed reimbursements as needed.

System Development

CO-CHAIRS — KATHY LIVELY, KATHY DAY

Purpose: *Continually improve the workforce system through the facilitation of state-wide training opportunities.**

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Arranged quality roundtable discussions for the monthly IWP meetings along with the agenda.
- ◆ Assisted State staff with DCEO training calendar by gathering information from local workforce areas.
- ◆ Surveyed membership on a variety of topics including meeting schedule, time, committee structures and training suggestions.
- ◆ Crafted meeting format changes to decrease meeting length while increasing productivity.
- ◆ Coordinated all agendas and meeting arrangements in absence of state staff.

** System Development commends the previous work and dedication of Barb Senalik, whose sudden passing has left a void felt by all who knew her.*



Left to right: U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood and Dr. Jack Gilligan participate in a workforce panel discussion.



Illinois State Senator Koehler discussed workforce development trends and opportunities.



Left to right: LWA 15 Board Chair Chris Glynn, LWA 15 Vice Chair Dallas Howard Crow, 2007 Workforce Forum Speakers — Ralph Martire, Christopher Swanson, Marc Tucker, and Senator David Koehler, Bashir Ali, Director, City of Peoria Workforce Development participating in the 2007 Workforce Forum.



Blanche Shoup (LWIA 14), addresses the Illinois delegation at the Hit the Hill II Event in Washington, D.C.

Hit the Hill

In February, 2008, The Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP) sponsored the second "Hit the Hill" informational session at the NAWB Conference in Washington, D.C. Over 100 individuals attended this event including Workforce Investment Board Members, economic development directors, workforce development directors, local elected officials as well as Representatives' staff from districts throughout Illinois.

This event provided an opportunity for local elected officials, business leaders and workforce board members to meet with area legislators and discuss the local workforce issues as well as thank local legislators for their support of the local workforce boards.

2007 Illinois Workforce Development Conference

The Workforce Development Conference honors businesses and business leaders who have contributed to the workforce development system. The highlight of the conference is the presentation of awards to individuals who have overcome personal challenges to achieve their career and education goals. Nominations are submitted to the Workforce Award Committee by Workforce Investment Board Chairs from each local workforce area in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), in conjunction with the local workforce areas, recognized the following businesses and individuals for their contributions and achievements:

Business Leadership Award

Bison Gear & Engineering Corp.,
LWIA 5

Individual Leadership Award

Kathy Lively, LWIA 25

Innovative Solutions Award

The Transition Team, LWIA 25

Outstanding Youth Program Award

Education Outreach Program
Whiteside Regional Office of
Education, LWIA 4

Journey Award

Patricia Kershaw, LWIA 11

Individual Achievement Award Winners

Faheem Abro, LWIA 8

Britney Ashline, LWIA 17

Bettianne Atkins, LWIA 16

Kimberly Barry, LWIA 14

Katerra Bond, LWIA 19

Tonya Maxwell Bradford, LWIA 26

Maria Broyles, LWIA 2

Kelly Chastain, LWIA 4

Tawni M. Collins, LWIA 24

William Donaldson, LWIA 23

Hilmy Elalamy, LWIA 7

Ashley Fogle, LWIA 12

Ramon Gomez, LWIA 3

Shelley Greenwood, LWIA 22

John Hurt, LWIA 11

Nicole Jiles, LWIA 1

Tiffany Lomax, LWIA 18

John Malcuit, LWIA 13

Avis Nowicki, LWIA 10

Mary Pelich, LWIA 20

Leonya Pickel, LWIA 9

Anjelica Santoyo, LWIA 5

Linda Tidei, LWIA 6

Melanie Turner, LWIA 25

LWIA 1

Chris Stevens, *Director*
Lake County Workforce
Development Department

Vicky Gordon, *Manager*
Lake County Workforce Investment Board

LWIA 2

Carl Martens, *Director*
McHenry County Workforce
Investment Department

Julie Courtney, *Director*
McHenry County Workforce Network

LWIA 3

Darcy Bucholz, *Executive Director*
Boone & Winnebago Workforce
Investment Board, Inc.

Michael Williams, *Executive Director*
Rock River Training Corporation

LWIA 4

Kate Ramsay, *Manager*
Northwest Illinois Workforce
Investment Board

Kathy Day, *Executive Director*
Partners for Employment

LWIA 5

Sheila McCraven, *Executive Director*
Director of Human Resource Management

LWIA 6

Mary Beth Marshall, *Executive Director*
DuPage Workforce Board

Sue Clark, *Administrator*
DuPage County Workforce
Development Department

LWIA 7

Karen S. Crawford, *Director*
Cook County President's Office
of Employment and Training

George Ward, *Lead Board Staff*
Cook County Workforce Investment Board

LWIA 8

Jennifer Serino-Stasch, *Director*
Workforce Board of Northern Cook County

Al Saulys, *Center Manager*
Business and Career Services, Inc.

LWIA 9

Joanne Greene, *Executive Director*
Chicago Workforce Board

Jeffrey Marcella, *Director of Policy*
Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

LWIA 10

Pat Fera, *Manager*
Workforce Investment Board of Will County

Susan Flessner, *Administrative Manager*
Workforce Services Division of Will County

LWIA 11

Elisabeth Dunbar, *Executive Director*
Grundy, Livingston, Kankakee
Workforce Board

Margaret Cooper,
Director of Workforce Services
Kankakee Community College — WIA

LWIA 12

Pam Furlan, *Executive Director*
Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.

LWIA 13

Chuck Stewart, *Director*
Workforce Development Board of Rock
Island, Henry, and Mercer Counties

Cathy Bizarri, *Division Manager*
Partners in Job Training and Placement

LWIA 14

Blanche Shoup, *Director*
Workforce Investment Office
of Western Illinois

LWIA 15

Bashir Ali, *Director*
City of Peoria Workforce
Development Department

Paula Nachtrieb, *Division Manager*
City of Peoria Workforce
Development Department

LWIA 16

Gary Ciccio, *Vice President*
United Workforce Development Board

Steve Martin, *Director of Administration*
United Workforce Development Board

LWIA 17

Al Anderson, *Executive Director*
Champaign Consortium

Cathy McArthur, *Director*
Workforce Development Board
of East Central Illinois

LWIA 18

Brian Hensgen, *Executive Director*
Vermilion County Job Training Partnership

LWIA 19

Robyn McCoy, *Executive Director*
Workforce Investment Solutions

Karen Allen, *Program Manager*
Workforce Investment Solutions

LWIA 20

Anne Schneider, *Administrator*
Land of Lincoln Consortium

LWIA 21

Mik Arnett, *Executive Director*
West Central Development Council

LWIA 22

Dave Stoecklin, *Executive Director*
Madison County Employment
and Training Department

LWIA 23

James McShane III, *Executive Director*
Crossroads Workforce Investment Board

LWIA 24

Scott L. Rhoden, *Manager*
Mid America Workforce
Investment Board

Melinda Nicholson, *Division Manager*
Employment and Training Services
Division, St. Clair County

LWIA 25

Kathy Lively, *Chief Executive Officer*
Man-Tra-Con Corporation

LWIA 26

Jim Murphy, *Executive Coordinator*
Southern 14 Workforce
Investment Board, Inc.



ILLINOIS WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

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