

West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board LWIA-11

Southwest Human Resource Agency

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Upcoming WIA Events: Nov./Dec.

- 12/6- SWHRA Open House; 11-1 pm
Central Office
- 12/14- SWHRA Christmas Party
Premier Place; Jackson
- 12/18- WIA Staff Meeting
Career Center; Jackson
- 12/24-Christmas Eve; Agency Closed
- 12/25-Christmas Day; Agency Closed

WIA Profile: Youth Program

The West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board-Area 11 (LWIA-11) places a major emphasis on youth by targeting the at-risk youth of our communities, and those who have not done well in school systems. Also, those who have other barriers limiting their ability to get and keep good jobs. Youth services conducted by LWIA-11 cover a broad range of coordinated activities including opportunities for youth training in academic and occupational learning.



WIA Youth Coordinator, Betsy Pickler, (both photos) has been instrumental in overseeing all WIA Youth Programs.

Services that we provide include, but are not limited to the following: tutoring and study skill training, alternative secondary school services, summer employment opportunities, paid and unpaid work experience, occupational skills training, leadership development, adult mentoring, comprehensive guidance and counseling, and supportive services. Some of the Youth Program highlights include the Gang Prevention Program that took place this past summer. The



Gang Prevention Summer Work Experience Program was a locally funded initiative between the City of Jackson, WIA Area-11, and the Madison County Juvenile Courts. The targeted youths, whose ages were between 15-18, had the opportunity to experience an enriching and constructive summer through subsidized placements in private and public sectors, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

The key purpose of the program was to provide 42 high-risk juvenile offenders with an 8-week exploration that is more than just a "job", but a true learning experience, on-the-job training, and case management. The eligible youth were targeted and referred by the Madison County Juvenile Court Services with a court order from Madison County Juvenile Court Judge, Christy Little.

WIA Profile: Youth Program Continued...

Those chosen had to meet the age requirements, be a resident of Madison County and had to meet other criteria that was laid out within the program.

Another one of the highlights from the past year was the 2012 Summer Work Experience Program which involved 100 youth that were already enrolled in WIA. They were placed in meaningful worksites that fit their individual interests, and were in the program for six weeks. The program began in early June of this year, and it included each of the eight SWHRA counties with participants working in various job settings.



WIA Monitor, Lucy Locke, observes a Summer Youth Participant in Henderson County.

WIA Staff Trains for GCDF Certification

Seven members of the WIA Staff are currently enrolled in a five month Global Career Development Facilitator Training (GCDF). This nationally recognized certification was developed to provide standards, training specifications and credentialing for individuals providing career assistance. The certification is awarded from the Center of Credentialing and Education, a corporate affiliate of the National Board of Certified Counselors, a leader in the professional credentialing field. The GCDF designates individuals working in a variety of career development settings. A GCDF may serve as a career group facilitator, job search trainer, career resource coordinator, career coach, career development case manager, intake interviewer, occupational and labor market information resource person, and much more. The training is taking place in Memphis, for two days each month.

WIA Teams with REDI to Help Students Prepare for their Future



The REDI College Access Program is a vital and much needed program in the Southwest Tennessee region. Since its inception in March 2010, they have worked with over 3,000 deserving students to assist them in the entire college exploration, application and enrollment process. Many students in the region have the ability to get into some type of post secondary educational institution just not the knowledge on how to navigate the process or the money to pay for it. REDI works with these students and their families to successfully navigate the process, get them accepted and enrolled and to help find the much needed financial assistance to make this all happen.

During this academic year, they will also offer a variety of programs and services related to education that will help to prepare them and get them actively involved in this educational quest. As it is needed, they will also work with their many partners and resources to provide additional services to the students who need them. The ultimate goal is enrollment into some type of post secondary education and successful completion of a degree or certificate that will allow them to be employable and be productive citizens of their respective communities.

Chester County

Workforce Investment Act
269 North Church
Henderson, TN 38340
Ph: 731-989-5160
Roamell Bostick, Career Spec.

Decatur County

Workforce Investment Act
20 North Pleasant St.
Decaturville, TN 38329
Ph: 731-852-4811
Su Therrell, Career Spec.

Hardeman County

Tennessee Career Center
602-A Tennessee St.
Bolivar, TN 38008
Ph: 731-658-4073
Jeanette Lockett, Career Spec.

Hardin County

Tennessee Career Center
1080 Wayne Rd.
Savannah, TN 38372
Ph: 731-925-4169
Velma Holt, Career Spec.

Haywood County

Tennessee Career Center
140 South Wilson
Brownsville, TN 38012
Ph. 731-779-0868
Lillie Boyd, Career Spec.

Out of School Youth Mentoring: A Joint Collaboration

Henderson County

Tennessee Career Center
67 West Church St. Ste. A
Lexington, TN 38351
Ph: 731-968-0276
Bettina Webb, Career Spec.
Kim Hurley, Career Spec.

Madison County

Tennessee Career Center
362 Carriage House Dr.
Jackson, TN 38305
Ph: 731-668-2040
Brenda Fowler, Career Spec.
Diana Bernard, Career Spec.
Harvey Buchanan, Res. Rm.
Mgr.
Jennifer Rivers-Parker, Rec.

McNairy County

Workforce Investment Act
145 South Y Square
Selmer, TN 38375
731-645-7264
Fedtricia Barnes, Career Spec.

WIA Administrative Offices

P.O. Box 264
1527 White Avenue
Henderson, TN 38340
Ph: 731-989-0533
800-572-5782
Jimmy Bell, WIA Director

Beginning in the summer of 2013, the Henderson County Youth Essentials for Success (YES), and the McNairy County Adult Education Center, will combine to help lead an Out of School Youth mentoring, leadership, and transitioning program.

The YES program staff will work closely with the students, developing a challenging Action Plan for each student. The Action Plan will outline the services to be offered, with the primary goals of: preparing for and attaining a GED Diploma; entering employment or post-secondary education; and gaining literacy and numeracy skills.

Orientation sessions will be held on an individual and group basis at the time of enrollment. Students will participate in organized and individual instruction opportunities. Eligible students will also have the opportunity to participate in a work experience program, with the goal of finding and maintaining an unsubsidized job or unsubsidized, voluntary internship/ externship before completion of the program. Follow-up services will continue for twelve months after participation in the program and will be completed by the program staff.



The McNairy County Adult Education Center seeks to implement an Out of School Youth Program (OSY) where youth ages 17-21 will receive job and life skills training, attend GED preparation class, and be assisted in gaining employment. The OSY program hopes to provide students with a second chance to get an education, experience positive role models, receive counseling/ guidance, and become productive citizens.

The OSY students will be encouraged to seek additional education/training to better prepare them to enter the increasingly competitive job market. Motivational guest speakers from colleges, technology centers, and other educational/training centers will be invited to conduct on site presentations supplying the students with information about the availability of additional training/education beyond the GED.



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WIA Administrative Offices
P.O. Box 264
1527 White Avenue
Henderson, TN 38340

Phone: 731-989-0533
Fax: 731-983-3149
Email: jbell@swhra.org
WIA Director: Jimmy Bell

Southwest Human Resource Agency
"Delivering Hope"

Visit Us Online:

www.westtennesseecareers.org

The West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board, Local Workforce Investment Area 11 is administered by the Southwest Human Resource Agency and is comprised of eight counties in West Tennessee. LWIA 11 is under the direction of the twenty-nine member West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board, is composed of representatives from all 8 counties, and meets all requirements for private industry and public representation

SWHRA-WIA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, disability regarding employment or provision of educational services.

The Workforce Investment Act, administered through SWHRA is an equal opportunity employer program and auxiliary aids services (ADA) are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD: 1-800-484-0298

Mission Statement::

"The mission of LWIA 11 will continue to be the delivery of quality services to our customers, while focusing on streamlined processes, accountability, flexibility, proper management controls, and positive performance outcomes."

**Happy Holidays
from the WIA
Staff!!!**