

# West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board LWIA-11

*Southwest Human Resource Agency*

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## Upcoming WIA Events: Oct./Nov.

10/24- WEOC Meeting; Savannah, Molly Mondays
10/25- WIA Board Meeting; SWHRA Central Office
10/26- Career Fair Chester Co. High School
10/29,30- Colonial Open Enrollment SWHRA Central Office
10/31- Halloween
11/12- Veterans Day SWHRA Agency Closed

## Funding Available for Incumbent Worker Program

The purpose of the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program is to support training that results in either: lay-off aversion through skill attainment for employees, or lay-off aversion through process improvement that contributes to the competitiveness and productivity of a business.

What is lay-off aversion? It is when a worker's job is saved with an existing employer where, if training does not occur, may result in a downsizing or closing. Also may occur if a worker, at risk of dislocation, transitions to a different job with the same employer or a new job with a different employer, and then experiences no, or a minimal spell of unemployment.

Tennessee for-profit and not-for-profit (health care) related businesses that have been in operation for a minimum of one year prior to the application date, employ at least five full-time employees, are current on all federal and state tax obligations, and are financially viable are eligible to apply.

The IWT is cooperatively administered through the state's Local Workforce Investment Areas and the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Development. Applications are submitted from the companies directly to a LWIA. An LWIA may request additional information or establish supplemental provisions and requirements for the training projects.

Currently, LWIA-11 has been approved for to spend \$100,000 for the upcoming year beginning October 1, 2012. The maximum amount is \$25,000 per grant, with a funding limit of \$50,000. When a company has reached \$50,000 limit it must skip a year before they can re-apply.



*Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) funds are limited, and are therefore awarded on a competitive basis.*

## 9th Annual West Tennessee Economic Summit at JSCC

The 9th Annual West Tennessee Economic Summit was held at Jackson State Community College on October 16th. The theme of this year's Economic Summit was *"Working West Tennessee~ It's more than nine to five!"*. The purpose of the summit was to allow influential leaders who believe in West Tennessee to share some of their ideas on economic growth, education, resources, and future developments.

Some of the key speakers included Commissioner of Education, Kevin Huffman speaking on the importance of education today. Clay Banks, Regional Director Southwest ECD, also spoke on the outlook of economic development here in West Tennessee. Walter Perry, District Director for U.S. Small Business Administration, spoke about the current state of businesses today. The Director of Emphasis at JSCC, Jack Laser, shared some thoughts on JSCC manufacturing initiatives. Closing out the summit, Gardner A. Carrick, the VP of Strategic Initiatives at the Manufacturing Institute in Washington, D.C. gave a broader outlook on some of the manufacturing prospects for our area.



WIA Youth Coordinator, Betsy Pickler (L), and WIA Business Services Representative, Reid Barker (R) attend the Economic Summit at JSCC.

### 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  
Kim Hurley, 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.

## WIA Board Utilizes Strategic Thinking Teams



LWIA-11 Director, Jimmy Bell (L), and WIA Board Chairman Craig Butler (Center), address the board.

The West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board is using strategic thinking teams to help target the areas of improvement that LWIA-11 needs to address. Board members have been broken into several different teams.

The groups have met to discuss various issues including: board orientation, career centers, employer needs, and youth activities. A team presenter has been chosen for each group, and that person is responsible for reporting the teams progress at the WIA Board Meeting on October 25th.

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  
157 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

## Manufacturing Day at JSCC

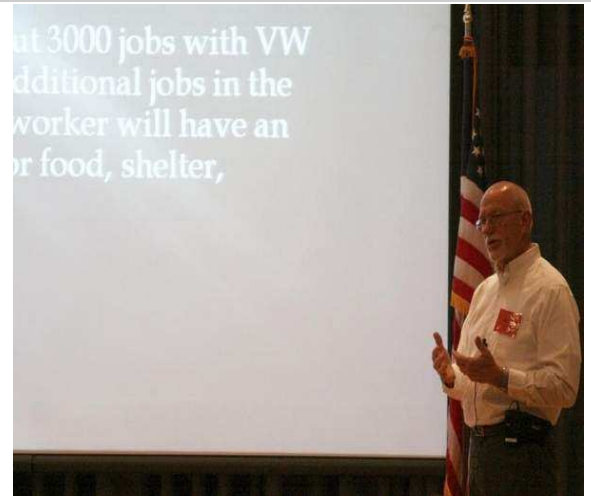
Manufacturing Day was a nationwide initiative designed to expand the knowledge about and improve general public perception of manufacturing careers and manufacturing's value to the U.S. economy. October 5, 2012, JSCC in collaboration with The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services and the Department of Economic and Community Development did just that.

More than 50 high school "influencers", including principals, teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, and board members for area school systems. Professors, recruiters, representatives and students from local colleges were also present.

They met in Ayers Auditorium located in the McWherter Building, and heard presentations from JSCC President Bruce Blanding, Dean Terri Messer, and Director Jack Laser. They presented statistics and information about manufacturing today. According to Dr. Blanding, "about 17 percent of the workforce in Tennessee is in manufacturing, and of that, 30 percent is in West Tennessee". Dean Messer goes on to say that, "About 24 percent of West Tennessee workforce, outside Shelby County, works in more than 600 companies".

The presentations concluded, and participants boarded vans provided by SWHRA and toured three of the local manufacturing plants; TBDN, Delta, and Pinnacle Foods. Companies provided tour guides that helped individuals understand what really goes on in today's plants, what skill sets are needed to get into a manufacturing field, and how to better equip the youth for these positions.

They were able to see the amount of technology, automation, and critical thinking skills necessary to effectively produce their products. One guidance counselor commented that, "It allowed me to gain a visual insight on what actually takes place". The event was largely considered a success, and participants went away with a better understanding of manufacturing today and a new comfort level in advising and assisting youth interested in manufacturing.



*Director of the Center of Emphasis at JSCC, Jack Laser, speaks at Manufacturing Day (photo courtesy of The Jackson Sun).*



## *Southwest Human Resource Agency*

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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”**

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Visit Us Online:

[www.swhra.org](http://www.swhra.org)

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*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. LWLA 11 is under the direction of the twenty-eight 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-WLA 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 LWLA 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.”*

## **SWHRA and SWCDC’s Golf Tournament a Success**

The 5th annual SWHRA and SWCDC’s Golf Tournament at Woodland Hills Golf Club was a huge success. This year’s tournament marked the largest one to date for the agency. Over 100 golfers from all across the area participated in the event which helped raise money for Southwest TN Community Development Corporation. SWCDC is a community housing development organization created to meet the housing needs of citizens throughout the eight counties served by Southwest HRA.

The winners of this years tournament represented The Hardin County Mayor’s office. They were awarded a cash prize for their efforts. Other prizes were awarded for putting contests, longest drive, closest to the pin, as well as an opportunity for ten players to take a single shot for a chance to win \$100,000.



Tournament winners representing The Hardin County Mayors Office are (from L-R ) Robert Davis, Mayor Kevin Davis, Kirk Carroll, and Steve Carnal