

# West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board LWIA-11

Southwest Human Resource Agency

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## Upcoming WIA Events:

Sept. 20- Job Fair; UT-Martin Parsons
Sept. 26- SWHRA Golf Tournament
Oct. 2- National Disability Awareness
Oct. 9- WIA Executive Committee
Oct. 16- Economic Summit; JSCC

## WIA Program Profile: On-the-Job Training

On-the Job Training (OJT) is a program available to youth and adults, including dislocated workers. It is a training activity conducted by a private, private non-profit or public sector employers that occurs while an individual is engaged in productive work. The individual learns the necessary skills and information for full and adequate employment performance.

The program is directed at employers who are able to provide occupational skill training and full-time employment that leads to self-sufficiency for the participant. OJT employers must agree first to hire and then to train eligible WIA participants. Reimbursement of up to 50% of the wage rate is provided to OJT employers to compensate for the extraordinary costs of training. Extraordinary costs are those associated with training with training and additional supervision.

Despite the benefits accruing to employers who participate as OJT employers, the focus of the OJT program is the participant. OJT, first and foremost, is designed to provide participants an opportunity to receive the training necessary to acquire skills and knowledge that will enable them to maintain self-sufficient employment and compete for job advancement.

Currently there are eight OJT contracts that are active in WIA Area-11. Contracts that are active include: Agape Family Healthcare Clinic, Armstrong Hardwood Flooring Co., BlueScope Building North America, Inc., Chester Co. Highway Dept., Eye Care Group, H & H Services, Tim Ferguson Plumbing, and Wisper, LLC. Within these contracts WIA is serving approximately 50 participants.



OJT benefits both employers and employees.

## The Resource Center in Jackson is Making a Difference



Our success story of the month comes from the Tennessee Career Center in Jackson. The Resource Room manager, Harvey Buchanan (Top Left), is responsible for overseeing many of the tools that participants utilize while they are at the Career Center. A participant recently wrote in about the success that she had while under the helpful eye of Mr. Buchanan. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

*“ I am writing this letter on behalf of one of your employees. I had the pleasure of meeting him while I was working on my Job Readiness Program. His name is Mr. Buchanan... During my work with him during the last few months my computer skills have increased... I have learned to type, and operate the following Microsoft Office programs: Word, Office, Publisher, and Power Point. I have learned to formulate a resume, cover letter, follow-up letter, and acceptance letter... I am also preparing to take my Career Readiness Certificate Examination. I hope that you will continue to develop other programs such as these and I hope that this letter in some small way will help you have a great day, and I know that there are people like myself who are benefiting from programs such as this”*

## WIA says ‘Goodbye’ to Three Longtime Employees



Brenda Magers (Top Right, Left), Fairy Rogers (Top Right, Right), and Janice Carroll (Not Pictured) were honored at a recent retirement celebration held at the SWHRA Central Office. All three of these women have been with WIA since 2000. On behalf of the entire WIA staff we thank you for all of your hard work and dedication over the past 12 years.



### 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.

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.  
Laura Daniel, 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

**National Employ Older Workers Week 2012**

## Gain Experience the Smart Way

## Hire an Older Worker



**National Employ  
Older Workers Week  
September 23-29, 2012**

Older workers are the fastest-growing sector of the American workforce. They are **reliable, qualified, skilled** – and they model a good work ethic for younger workers.

**Be smart. Hire experience.  
Hire an older worker.**

**1-877-US2-JOBS** (TTY: 1-877-889-5627)  
[www.doleta.gov/seniors](http://www.doleta.gov/seniors)

For local information, contact:




**WIA Staff Receives Training**

Several members of the WIA Staff traveled to Spring Hill recently for a Tennessee College Access Training Conference. One of the main highlights was learning how to utilize a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), which is a method of evaluating what you have learned outside school for college credit.

Your past experiences and knowledge may be shown to be equal to what you could learn in a college classroom. If you can demonstrate this knowledge at the college level, then many institutions in Tennessee will award you college credit for what you already know. Generally students demonstrate PLA in one of three forms: credit by examination, credit recommendations for past training, and portfolio assessments.



## *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 5th Annual Golf Tournament**

*Hit the Greens with SWHRA!*

Where: Woodland Hills Golf Club

2 Club House Dr.

Pinson, TN 38366

When: Wednesday, September 26

Lunch at 11 a.m.

Shotgun start at 12 p.m.

Chances to win over \$1,000,000 in prizes.

Hole-in-One

1st-3rd place teams per flight

Closest-to-Pin

Putting Contest

Longest Drive

