

West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board



Southwest Human Resource Agency

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Upcoming WIA Events:

9/9-10 State Workforce Board Meeting;	Nashville
9/12 Masco Bath Rapid Response;	Adamsville
9/22-25 SETA Conference;	Lexington, KY
9/23-27 National Older Workers Week	
9/27 WIA Staff Meeting;	Central Office
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Jones Lumber Co. and WIA offer second chance

For Edmund Thomas getting a second chance was something he wasn't sure that he would ever receive.

After serving seven and a half years in prison for dealing drugs, he was certain that maintaining steady employment would be difficult for him to achieve.

He has seen first hand that it is extremely difficult in these times to have someone give you a second chance when you have a felony on your record.

Then his luck finally changed. Jones Lumber Company in Henderson offered Edmund his second chance by partnering with WIA's On-the-Job Training program. By receiving reimbursement through WIA to alleviate training costs, Jones Lumber Company hired him. Finally his life was starting to make a turn for the positive.

Edmund stated that " I give thanks every day to God for the chance Jones Lumber Company and WIA has given me. Without this job I could have easily turned back to my old way of life."

He hopes his story will have an impact on others. He has given his testimony to some local youth groups, and wishes to become more involved in the area.

Jones Lumber Company is located at 2785 Old Jackson Rd. in Henderson.



Edmund Thomas is employed at Jones Lumber Company in Henderson.

WIA helps woman with ‘anything it takes’ mentality

Several months ago a single mother of two named Candy moved to Decatur County from Michigan. She came to the area with essentially no money and no job in place.

After hearing that WIA could possibly assist her in getting some sort of training, she visited the local WIA office in Parsons. She was hoping that she might be able to attend truck driving school and that WIA would be able to help her with the tuition cost.

She met with WIA Career Specialist Su Therrell and they discussed some possible options for Candy. Su instructed her to look into the schools that were available while also considering the cost for each school. For the first time since she had moved to West Tennessee, Candy finally felt like she was on the right track to providing for her children once again.

After weighing her options, Candy returned to the WIA office the next week to inform Su that she had decided to enroll in the truck driving program offered by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Jackson (formerly the Tennessee Technology Center at Jackson).

Her only mode of transportation was an old van. She was unable to afford the gas money that it cost to commute back and forth to Jackson, and did not have enough money to pay for a place to stay either. Candy made the decision that she was going to do whatever it took to get through school even if it meant sleeping in her van on school nights. With her parents agreeing to watch her children, sleeping in her van is exactly what she did.

Candy’s ‘anything it takes’ mentality paid off as she was able to finish the truck driving program. She credits Su for guiding her along her journey and supporting her in every way possible. She now has a job with a long haul trucking company, and without the help of Su and the WIA program none of this likely would have been possible.



TCAT is located at 2468 Technology Center Dr. in Jackson.

Chester County

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

Decatur County

Workforce Investment Act
2039 Highway 641 South
Parsons, TN 38363
Workforce Investment Act
Ph: 731-847-2021
Su Therrell, Career Spec.

Hardeman County

Tennessee Career Center
602-A Tennessee St.
Bolivar, TN 38008
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Hardin County

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1080 Wayne Rd.
Savannah, TN 38372
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Velma Holt, Career Spec.

Haywood County

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Lillie Boyd, Career Spec.

Henderson County

Tennessee Career Center

17 Monroe Ave., Suite 8

Lexington, TN 38351

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Bettina Webb, Career Spec.

Madison County

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Jimmy Bell, WIA Director

*** Address change**

New Incumbent Worker grant approved

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has approved a proposal from Kerr Group Inc. in Madison County. The grant will allow the upgrade of skills of 36 current employees. LWIA-11 will be involved in registering participants in the WIA program, monitoring the progress of training, and collecting data required for calculating performance measures.

Throughout their history, it has been the dedication of team members that has allowed Berry to grow into a leading global manufacturer of injection-molded plastic packaging, thermoformed products, flexible films and packaging, as well as tapes and corrosion protection products.

Kerr Group Inc. is a subsidiary of Berry Plastics located in Jackson.

Pinning Ceremony for LPN Graduates



Several LWIA-11 enrollees receive their pins after completing the LPN Program at Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Crump.

These successful individuals will soon be able to begin a new career journey due to their hard work and dedication.

Upcoming SETA Conference

The dates for the Southeastern Employment and Training Association's (SETA) Fall conference in Lexington, KY have been set. The conference will take place on September 22-25 at the Downtown Hilton in Lexington.

This years exciting agenda will be highlighted by a closing session led by Rose Rock, mother of comedian/actor Chris Rock. Several members of the LWIA-11 staff and board members will attend this years conference.

SWHRA and SWCDC Golf Tournament

SWHRA and SWCDC's 6th annual golf tournament will be held at Woodland Hills Golf Club on Wednesday, September 16. For more information regarding the tournament including times and prizes, contact WIA Business Services Representative Reid Barker at 983-3737



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Southwest Human Resource Agency
"Delivering Hope"

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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."

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