

West Tennessee Workforce Investment Board



Southwest Human Resource Agency

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WIA annual board meeting highlights



Melinda Williams, TDOL Communications, Constituent and Government Relations Administrator, addresses the WIA Board members.



TDOL Director of Workforce Boards and Strategic Planning, Christy Montgomery conducts a new board member training session.

Upcoming WIA/SWHRA Events:

November/December

11/18 Thanksgiving Luncheon;

Central Office

11/19 TAHRA; Nashville

11/25 Mandatory Training;

Central Office

11/26 Open House;

Decatur Co. CSC

11/28-29 Thanksgiving;

Agency closed

12/13 SWHRA Holiday Banquet;

Premiere Place, Jackson

12/18 WIA Staff Meeting;

Central Office

12/19 SWHRA Open House;

Central Office



Madison County Tennessee Career Center director, Mark Chandler, gives a TCC report to the board.



SWHRA Executive Director, Mike Smith, gives an audit report to the board members.



WIA Participant of the Year Edmund Thomas (center) is pictured with Jones Lumber Company's Patricia Jones (L), and WIA Director Jimmy Bell (R). Not pictured is Candy Parker from Decatur County, who was also named WIA Participant of the Year.

WIA attends REDI Conference



REDI Director, Lisa Hankins, speaks at the conference as SWTDD Executive Director, Joe Barker, looks on. (Photo courtesy of Megan Smith, *The Jackson Sun*).

“Education helps business”

<http://www.jacksonsun.com>

The fifth annual Regional Economic Development Initiative, or REDI, was held at the Southwest Tennessee Development District office on College Street on Wednesday.

The of the conference, which includes an update on the state of the REDI program, was education and how it is inseparably tied to economic development, said team director Lisa Hankins.

Joe Barker, executive director of the development district, said that if West Tennessee is going to improve itself economically, it is going to have to do so through education.

“You will see (in West Tennessee) we have some of the lowest per capita income in the state,” he said. “You will also see that we have some of the lowest post-secondary educational attainment levels. We are moving the needle. What we are trying to do is change a culture. If we are going to ourselves, we are going to have to do it through education. Education is economic development.”

The conference was scheduled to last from 8 a.m. until a little after 3 p.m. A large component of the morning sessions was a panel discussion by members of the public and private sector on the changing educational landscape, on how more jobs require post-secondary education and how is changing everything.

Speakers remarked on technology such as 3-D printing, a technology that allows designs to be sent to printers that construct the designs, and digital factories that employ online customer service jobs.

“What we were trying to do is come together as a regional economic development initiative,” Barker said, “and REDI focuses on education, capacity building with local leadership, jobs related to technology and entrepreneurship.”

Hardin County Mayor Kevin Davis, chairman of the REDI board, was elected in 2002 and has been part of the REDI program from the onset.

“Today I try to take back how our county can better work in a regional capacity,” he said. “We forget county lines on jobs and economic growth.”

Davis said he thinks all the counties involved bring something different to the table and that various leaders think about the region as a whole and how the region affects their hometowns (*Story courtesy of The Jackson Sun, written by Jordan Buie*).

LWIA-11 has partnered with REDI over the last year by providing funding that supported WIA eligible youth in the LWIA-11 coverage area.

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The Music City to host conference

From its very beginnings, Nashville grew from a foundation built on music. Music has been the common thread connecting the life and soul of the city and its people. Nashville has also been known as the “Songwriting Capital of the World.” Songwriters from all over the world come to Music City to learn the art and share their passion of songwriting.

The beautiful Marriott Opryland offers an array of amazing attractions- including the legendary Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, Wild Horse Saloon and the Opry Mills Mall. There is so much to do and see; you never have a reason to leave the property.

Your local Tennessee hosts have planned a first-class educational conference to address the training needs of frontline staff across all programs. Welcome to the city where music is written, recorded and performed every single day. Welcome to Music City! *(Story by: Johnnie Wheeler)*

WIA attends NAWDP Youth Symposium

Over 550 participants from across the nation represented the entire scope of the profession including: One-Stop Center Staff, Youth Build Grantees, Job Corps Professionals, Community College Representatives, Career and Guidance Counselors, Juvenile Justice Specialists, Educators and other Youth Practitioners.

The Symposium was held at The Palmer House in downtown Chicago on October 28-30. A few of the LWIA-11 Staff members attended the conference.





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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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