

**The Southwest Ohio Region**  
**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SW Ohio Workforce Investment Board selected for top honor from national workforce organization**

CINCINNATI -- The Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) has been selected for the 2013 WIB Excellence Grand Prize by the National Association of Workforce Boards. The award will be presented March 10 at the 2013 NAWB Forum in Washington, D.C.

The SWORWIB, which oversees the policy and funding for the public workforce system in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, was selected for its "ability to develop comprehensive workforce solutions and innovations for its community by creating proactive program initiatives, engaging businesses, diversifying funding, and ensuring accountability," the NAWB said.

"During these difficult economic times, it is even more critical that WIBs adopt innovative ways to prepare and match individuals to business' workforce needs," said Ron Painter, President/CEO of the NAWB. "The SWORWIB has developed comprehensive workforce solutions and created proactive program initiatives to meet the needs of its workers and businesses."

Sherry Kelley Marshall, President/CEO of the SWORWIB, has led the organization since 2007. Under her leadership, the SWORWIB has worked with employers, educators, and community organizations in Cincinnati to develop three career pathways: the Health Careers Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, the Construction Careers Pathway Collaborative and the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways Collaborative. The pathways have led to new skills training, job placements, and upward mobility for thousands of people from Cincinnati and Hamilton County, many of them from disadvantaged backgrounds. The SWORWIB also continues to meet or exceed the workforce performance standards set by the Department of Labor and the State of Ohio. And the SWORWIB has one of the lowest costs per job placement among its workforce board peers in the State of Ohio.

"We are thrilled by this recognition, because it results from the hard work and the collaborative approach of our board and our many workforce and economic partners throughout the region in Greater Cincinnati," Marshall said.

Marshall will be leading a discussion of the SWORWIB's performance, initiatives and accomplishments during the NAWB'S March conference. She will also be presenting workshops on the Employers First Regional Workforce Network, a Tri-State organization that serves employers with regional needs; the Health Careers Collaborative; and the SWORWIB'S collaborative work with Partners for Competitive Workforce, the Cincinnati member of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

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The Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board is a nonprofit organization serving the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in workforce development. SWORWIB is comprised of leaders from business, education, labor, and government, with the majority of its board members representing the business sector. SWORWIB sets the vision, policy direction, and performance expectations for the regional workforce development system, including the SuperJobs Center at 1916 Central Parkway and all satellite locations.

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