

The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

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ONE MONTH INTO .NET TRAINING, CLASS FOCUSED ON LEARNING -- AND FUTURE

One month into the Developer Apprentice .NET training class at MAX Technical Training, the 12 students in the class – all displaced workers – are motivated and energized about the new career opportunities that lie ahead. “They are really invested in this class,” said their instructor, Patrick Tucker. “They came in that way. They have the drive and desire to learn and are doing well.”

The students are from different backgrounds – Beth Egbers did paralegal work for Becker Gallagher; Ron Schuermann was a network specialist at Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board; Brian Davis managed distribution for H.H. Gregg – but they are pegging their future on mastering .NET, Microsoft’s software framework used to build applications. The students have several things in common: They were laid off from their previous job, and found themselves searching for a new opportunity. And they have analytical minds and like to solve puzzles.

They are guinea pigs too, said Geoff Smith of the Greater Cincinnati CIO Roundtable. The class is the first that is being funded through a joint partnership of the SWORWIB, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, the CIO Roundtable, and IT employers. The partnership selected MAX Technical Training to teach the class. IT is the newest career pathway embraced by Partners, the SWORWIB, and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber as essential to the health of the region’s economy.

Smith, a former IT executive at Procter & Gamble, visited the class on June 13 to talk about the partnership and the commitment of the CIO Roundtable to making it work. “Three years from now, we want IT to be a bigger slice of the local economy – and to do that, we need the talent,” he said. He pledged to open what doors he could for those students who had not yet been hired by a partnership employer.

The students underwent a rigorous selection process: They had to achieve minimum scores in Work Keys’ applied mathematics assessment, as well as MAX’s aptitude exam. They had to commit to taking 11 weeks of classes, which began in late May and extend into August. Six of the 12 received job offers with either Paycor or Great American Insurance Co.; the other six hope to land jobs soon after their classes are completed.

Egbers, who will work at Paycor when her training is completed, got a Web Programming Professional Certification at UC Blue Ash, but says that the .NET class is “putting everything together.” Schuermann studied computer science at Xavier University 30 years ago, and says that learning object oriented programming is completely

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different, but still relies on logic and problem solving. Davis had no background in IT, and finds his classes “very interesting and very challenging. I would love to find a job that ties distribution and logistics to .NET applications. That would be great!”

“I wanted you to get the sense of our commitment to you,” Smith told the class. “This is real. You are pioneers and we want this class to be very successful.”

About the SWORWIB:

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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