



2010-11 Board of Directors Announced

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) is pleased to announce their 2010-11 Board of Directors

Chair—**Judith Stanton**, Attorney with Stanton Law Office

Vice Chair—**Mike Horton**, CEO of Michiana Resources

Secretary—**Keith Kirkpatrick**, President of KPM Group

Treasurer—**Gary Miller**, CEO of Prompt Ambulance Service

Board members: **Michael Berta, Jr.**-Portage Township Schools, **Catherine Delgado**-CLD Consulting, **Kim Emshweiller**-Vision Ag Inc., **Tom Hargrove**-USW Local 1010, **Arlene Mitchell Pearson**, **Bob Schaefer**-Community Dynamics, **Gerry Scheff**-Emerson Industrial Automation, **Rudy Sutton**-R.V. Sutton Inc., and **Linda Woloshansky**-Center of Workforce Innovations-Regional Operator & Board Liaison.

2010 State of the Workforce Report

Close to 170 individuals attended a breakfast event on September 1st at the Valparaiso Strongbow Inn to hear about the state of the workforce in our 7-county region. On behalf of the NWIWB, the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) worked this past year to compile and analyze data and information based on demographics, education, labor force trends, regional competitiveness, and the industry cluster options. The result was a 45-page report, a product that addresses the most pressing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges we face as a region when it comes to our workforce and its effects on education, economic development, and the global economy.



Here are the top five highlights from the State of the Workforce Report:

1. The Region's population is undergoing rapid changes and will face several challenges over the next few years as Baby Boomers begin to leave the workforce. This challenge will affect the Region before the rest of the state or nation as every county in Northwest Indiana has a median age greater than the state and nation. Throughout the past decade, youth employment opportunities have declined significantly. This means that an under-skilled and under-experienced group of workers will need to replace a large group of experienced retirees.
2. Based on unemployment trends, income, and education, approximately 227,000 workers in Northwest Indiana fall into the "income and education gap." These individuals are unemployed, earn less than is necessary to support a family of four, and work in occupations that require less than a postsecondary education. With a total labor force of approximately 400,000, this is a significant share of the working population.
3. Seven school districts in the Region fall into the bottom 10% in the state for high school graduation. They all border each other creating a zone of low performance. This area includes more than 11,000 high school students. We also project that if nothing is done, as many as 3,600 students will drop out from area high schools over the next 4 years.
4. Manufacturing is the largest source of economic strength in Northwest Indiana. Approximately 3 in every 10 jobs and about \$4 in every \$10 dollars paid to workers comes directly or indirectly through manufacturing. While employment in the sector is down over the past 10 years, several industries within the sector have added jobs and grown in regional concentration.
5. Based on occupation cluster analyses, the Region's most competitive strength is in its ample supply of skilled production workers. Northwest Indiana also has growing clusters of medical practitioners, skilled productions workers, food production and agribusiness workers, and engineering and related sciences workers.





Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC) Provides Summer Jobs

This summer, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Summer Youth Employment Program, called **Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC)**, drew 314 youth from Northwest Indiana. This statewide work program is geared toward low-income, at risk youth between the ages of 18-24.

YHCC INDOT sites included placement of youth in LaPorte, Michigan City, Chesterton, Gary/Miller, Gary Freeways, Lake County Construction, Hammond/Gary Testing Lab, Crown Point, and Roselawn, with jobs that involved maintenance of traffic signs, emergency clean up and beautification of Indiana's highway rest areas and interchanges. Several youth worked to rebuild structures, did maintenance work on trails, and helped create new trails with the Department of Natural Resources. Sites included the Indiana Dunes, Tippecanoe State Park, Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife, Kankakee Fish & Wildlife, Jasper/Pulaski Tree Nursery, Jasper/Pulaski Fish & Wildlife, LaSalle Fish & Wildlife, Willowslough Fish & Wildlife, and Moraine Nature Preserve.

Youth were screened and assigned to specific locations through the local WorkOne system with the assistance of their providers (JobWorks and Workforce Development Services). The YHCC program began on May 1st, with some of the youth working through October 2nd.



Antonio Johnson, a YHCC youth summer worker, discussed his job at INDOT with DWD Commissioner Mark Everson, explaining the positive effect the program has had on his life and his family. Johnson is working with INDOT at one of their Hammond sites, where he was selected as a team leader, and is hoping they'll keep him on once the program ends. He said that he now understands the term, "hard work pays off."

D A T A

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates & Unemployment Rates	July 2010 (Preliminary)	June 2010 (Revised)	July 2009 (Benchmark)
Labor Force	391,551	393,335	406,443
Employed	350,277	351,386	364,060
Unemployed	41,274	41,949	42,383
Unemployment Rates			
Northwest Indiana	10.5%	10.7%	10.4%
Indiana	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%
United States	9.7%	9.6%	9.7%
<i>Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Indiana Department of Workforce Development</i>			

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates for Northwest Indiana Counties	July 2010 (Preliminary) %	June 2010 (Revised) %	July 2009 (Benchmark) %
Jasper County	9.8	10.3	9.7
Lake Co.	11.1	11.1	10.5
La Porte Co.	11.4	11.5	11.3
Newton Co.	9.9	10.4	10.1
Porter Co.	8.6	9.0	9.2
Pulaski Co.	8.7	8.8	10.4
Starke Co.	12.2	12.1	14.5