



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2010

**Technology Influences in Healthcare
OSF St. Mary Medical Center hosts
Workforce Investment Board Meeting**

The Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois met at OSF St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg on March 25, 2010 to witness how technology plays a key role in the healthcare profession. This was dramatized by visits and presentations of the Catheterization Laboratory and demonstrations of OSF St Mary Medical Center's simulation mannequin used in start-of-the-art clinical training scenarios.

The agenda further included a presentation by Lori Williams of the Illinois Hospital Association on the Healthcare Initiatives of Western Illinois. This was followed by a report on the White House Jobs Forum and discussions of Rural Economic Development Priorities.

WIB Chairperson Robert Johnson recognized Kari Houle, Horticulturist for the Knox County, University of Illinois Extension and Pam Van Kirk, Director, Galesburg Public Library for their outstanding cooperation and participation in the WIA 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program. Specifically, Kari created curriculum and field work experiences that instructed her students, dubbed the "Galesburg Green Team", on all facets of gardening, botany, horticulture, landscaping and workplace skills.

A very satisfied customer of the "Galesburg Green Team's" efforts was the Galesburg Public Library where the team designed and planted Butterfly and Children's Gardens. Pam Van Kirk, Galesburg Public Library Director commented, *"Library customers and staff are enjoying the landscape projects completed by the students during their time at the library. The Butterfly Garden and Children's Garden are thriving thanks to the hard work of these students. I enjoyed collaborating with the students and providing a venue for their learning experience. It was a win-win situation for everyone."*

Because of these positive experiences, some of the youth have been turned-on to green career opportunities. Kari Houle summed up her experience by saying; *"Working with these youth was an amazing experience. Being able to help them learn new ideas and skills and seeing them grow during the program was one of the most satisfying experiences I have had."*

The Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois would like to thank Connie Wessels and OSF St. Mary Medical Center for the informative presentations and demonstrations on technology uses at their facility and for being gracious and accommodating hosts.

The Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois serves as a representative forum of community leaders in the counties of Adams, Brown, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Pike, Schuyler, and Warren. Its purpose is to act as an advocate for the identification, communication, and resolution of current and emerging workforce development matters in Western Illinois.

For additional information on the Workforce Investment Board visit our website at <http://www.wiworkforce.com/>

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