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### **Ohio Skills Bank Seeking Applications for “Workforce Innovations Solutions” Funding**

Dayton, Ohio -- The Ohio Skills Bank (OSB) is the process by which the State of Ohio is building a single, integrated adult education workforce system that is directly responsive to the needs of Ohio's employers. Educators and workforce professionals are working closely with Ohio employers to ensure that the University System of Ohio's (USO) public universities, community colleges, and adult career centers provide curriculum, programs and training aligned with industry demand.

OSB is currently soliciting applications from employers interested in working with USO institutions to “address closing the skills gaps between workforce supply and employer demand.” Some \$2.5 million in Workforce Innovations Solutions funding is available through June 2011.

Funding decisions will be made as project plans are submitted and reviewed based on a 300 point OSB criteria scoring sheet. Project plans that can be implemented quickly that result in training for new employment, job advancement and job creation will receive priority. Criteria for OSB funding include: 1) Significance to the regional economy; 2) Industry demand; 3) Presence of a champion and industry support; 4) Regional leveraged resources (Workforce Investment Act funds, Economic Development grants, etc.); 5) Infrastructure costs requested; and 6) Discretionary factors.

Sinclair Community College Workforce Development has been named as the Regional Coordinator for Region 4 which includes Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby counties. Michael Freed is the Region 4 OSB Administrator.

“We invite informal and formal groups of businesses to submit proposals that develop and implement a strategy to improve workforce skills and develop the talent that businesses need,” said Freed. “Once the applications are submitted, an employer led team comprised of 12 to 15 members will utilize data to determine and prioritize employer needs and the proposed initiatives that may address such needs. Their recommendations will then be forwarded to the State for the final selection process.”

Region 4 businesses interested in applying for OSB Workforce Innovations Solutions funding can apply online at [www.sinclair.edu/ohioskillsbank](http://www.sinclair.edu/ohioskillsbank). For more information, call Michael Freed at (937) 512-5012.

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