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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio Welcomes New Board Members; Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Workforce Development

CINCINNATI, OH. (Feb. 16, 2023) The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio (formerly the SWORWIB, Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board) has added four new board members. The new board of directors were inducted by Alicia Reese, President of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners Thursday, February 9, 2023. This brings the number of board members to 53, making it Ohio’s largest and most diverse workforce development board, and one of the largest in the nation. The new members of the Board include the following individuals:

Catherine Fitzgerald

Vice President
Hamilton County Economic Development
Office, Powered by Alloy

Michael Turner
Career Technical Manager
Cincinnati Public Schools

Uma Sivaprasad

Postdoc Recruitment Team
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Krista Rinehart

Director of Human Resources
The Summit Hotel

“The Workforce Council provides critical leadership and oversight to the regional public workforce system serving businesses and job seekers,” said Jason Ashbrook, Workforce Council Executive Director. “We are excited to welcome these new board members, representing some of the region’s key businesses and industry partners. Over the next two years, the Board will oversee key strategies on high-impact workforce development solutions for youth, adults, dislocated workers, and employers to help meet the changing needs of business/industry, while promoting a more equitable workforce for individuals.”

The Workforce Council also recognized local individuals and organizations for their outstanding workforce development achievements in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The *Workforce Champion Awards* celebrate those who have made a significant impact on the area’s public workforce system. This year’s recipients made demonstrated excellence in the categories of:

- Collaboration
 - Hamilton County Public Health

- Hope Arthur, The Health Collaborative
 - Learning Grove
 - Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt, Duke Energy
- Outstanding Employer
 - The City of Cincinnati
 - PNC Bank
 - Turner Construction
- Innovation
 - The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
 - Damascus
 - Michael Hill, Jobs Plus
- One-Stop Certification
 - The OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Leadership Team
- Workforce Employee of the Year
 - Leah Winkler, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Outstanding Leadership
 - Laurence Jones, RiskVersity
 - Myron Hughes, BlueRose Supply
 - Tom Burton, Princeton City Schools
 - President Alicia Reece, Hamilton County Board of Commission

About the Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio, formerly the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, is an independent, nonpartisan organization focused on workforce development and innovation in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Our diverse Board of Directors are comprised of regional leaders from business, education, organized labor, non-profit, and government. We oversee and implement the local area's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and collaborate with regional workforce partners to help strengthen the Tristate's workforce ecosystem. We lead this work by setting the vision, policy, and performance expectations for the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) regional workforce development system. The OMJ system and partners serve employers, job seekers, dislocated workers, veterans, youth & young adults, individuals with disabilities, returning citizens, and more. To learn more, visit <https://cincyworkforce.org/>

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