



*Creating and Expanding Opportunities for  
Economic Success to Those We Serve*

Annual Report  
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012



Rock River Training Corporation is a partner agency of  
The Workforce Connection

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



During this past year we observed modest improvement in our local economy, accompanied by more employment opportunities for our local workforce. Positive indicators include an increase in the number of our WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth program participants who found and retained jobs, and we saw a slight increase in their average annual earnings. However, the average annual unemployment rate of 11.4% in the Boone and Winnebago Counties area remained significantly above the Illinois statewide average of 8.9%, which poses a challenge for job seekers looking for local employment opportunities. Nevertheless, Rock River Training Corporation staff members continued to work in collaboration with our partner agencies to ensure that WIA enrollees are aware of job opportunities in local growth industries, and to help them develop new skills through training programs supported by our local employers.

New workforce development projects supported by RRTC with staff involvement include the **GED Attainment Initiative** sponsored by the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board, the Rockford Housing Authority **Self-Sufficiency Program** at the Blackhawk Housing Development, and several employment preparation and **Job Fair** events including one sponsored by the Resource Intervention Center (RIC) which is operated by the Winnebago County Court System.

Daily through our subcontracted WIA Youth Program Providers we work with at-risk youth seeking career opportunities by accessing the workforce development resources that we provide. The Rock Valley College Dislocated Worker Program continues to effectively respond to the training needs of laid-off workers by providing access to WIA and Trade Act funded services. As a result, nearly 75% of enrolled dislocated workers were able to improve their formal education, develop marketable workplace skills, and find in-demand jobs.

We continue to be proud of the collaborative and supportive roles we play in helping meet employer and job seeker needs in our local workforce area.

*Michael J. Williams, M.S.  
Executive Director  
Rock River Training Corporation*

## OUR VISION

*“RRTC programs and services will be recognized by employers, job seekers, other not-for-profit agencies and community-based organizations, elected public officials and local and state government entities as the premier source for workforce development and placement services that meet the immediate and future needs of individuals, businesses, and industry within our local workforce investment area. RRTC programs and services will be delivered collaboratively with our One Stop Partners and with the objective of contributing to and improving the economic prosperity within our Local Workforce Investment Area.”*

## OUR CUSTOMERS

| PROGRAM    |                           | 1A ADULT<br>(Ages 18+) | 1Y Youth<br>(Ages 14-21) | Dislocated Workers<br>(Ages 19+) |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOTALS     |                           | 268                    | 440                      | 1344                             |
| SEX        | Male                      | 107                    | 222                      | 637                              |
|            | Female                    | 159                    | 218                      | 705                              |
| AGE        | 14 – 18                   | 5                      | 269                      | 1                                |
|            | 19-21                     | 37                     | 170                      | 8                                |
|            | 22+                       | 226                    | 1                        | 1335                             |
| ETHNICITY* | White                     | 94                     | 168                      | 863                              |
|            | Black/African American    | 128                    | 206                      | 303                              |
|            | Hispanic/Latino           | 21                     | 70                       | 134                              |
|            | Asian                     | 33                     | 28                       | 26                               |
|            | Am. Indian/Alaskan Native | 3                      | 5                        | 11                               |
|            | Declined                  | 11                     | 41                       | 147                              |
|            | Hawaiian/Pac. Islander    | 1                      | 0                        | 3                                |

\* Selection of ethnicity is solely at the discretion of individuals registering for services. Individuals may decline to identify their ethnicity, or select multiple ethnic groups.

Equal Opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. This program is subject to provisions of the Jobs for “Veterans Act” Public Law 107-288 which provides priority of service to veterans and spouses of certain veterans.

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance criteria and measures are negotiated with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. There are a total of 9 standards which must all meet or exceed an 80% threshold. Failure to meet any one standard results in the agency failing to meet all standards. Rock River Training Corporation performance standard categories and results for program year 2011-2012 are as follows:

| <b>Title IA Adults (Ages 18+)</b> |             |               | <b>Title ID Dislocated Workers</b> |             |               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Entered Employment                | 67.88%      | <i>Meet</i>   | Entered Employment                 | 74.86%      | <i>Meet</i>   |
| Employment. Retention             | 75.39%      | <i>Meet</i>   | Employment Retention               | 85.44%      | <i>Meet</i>   |
| Average Earnings                  | \$10,086.20 | <i>Exceed</i> | Average Earnings                   | \$16,187.88 | <i>Exceed</i> |

### **Title IY Youth (Ages 14-21)**

|                                |       |               |                      |        |               |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|
| Attain Degree or Certification | 58.1% | <i>Exceed</i> | Placed in Employment | 61.99% | <i>Exceed</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|

Literacy and Numeracy Gains    47.24%    *Exceed*

## Rock River Training Corporation Board of Directors

Tom Lassandro, Chairman

|              |            |                        |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| Roger Boeke  | Izzy Burke | Lynn Godina, Secretary |
| Mary Hallock | Carl Towns | Cindy Waddick          |

## Rock River Training Corporation Staff

Michael J. Williams, M.S.  
Executive Director

|                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Julia Brandt    | Joe Caronna     | Mary Chairez  |
| Marie Fontin    | Mary Ann Howell | Mike Johnson  |
| Icidora Medrano | Ronnell Moore   | Chris Mullins |
| Kris Swanson    | Jackie Tenard   | Dan White     |

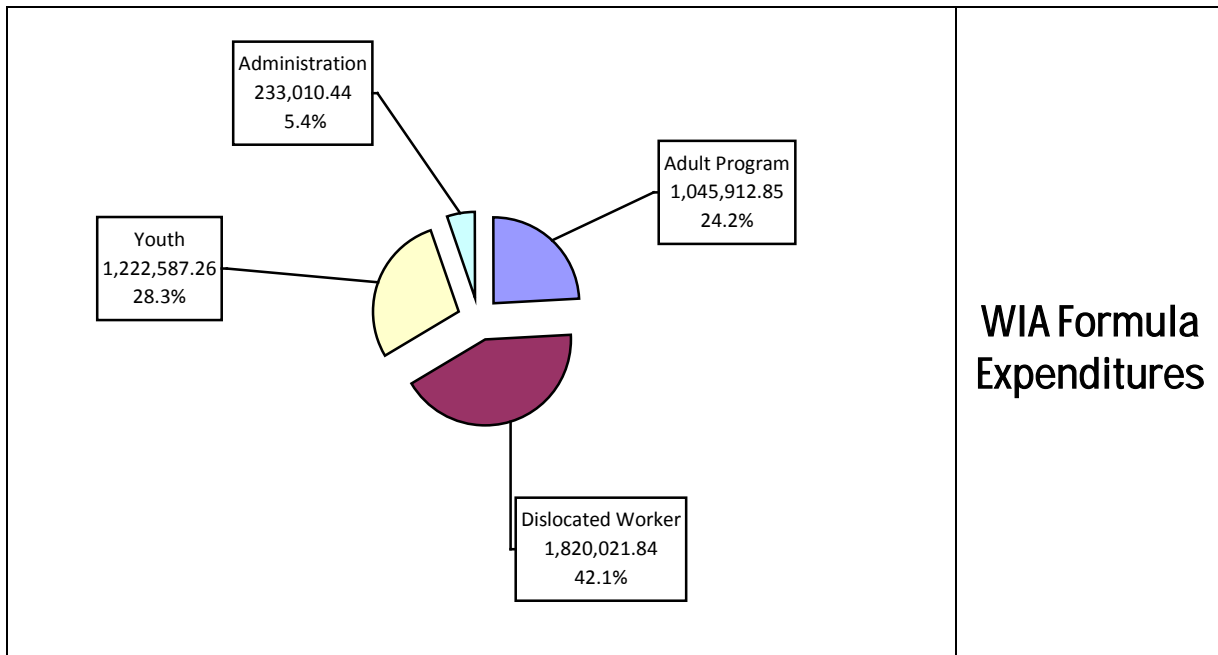
## Fiscal Report

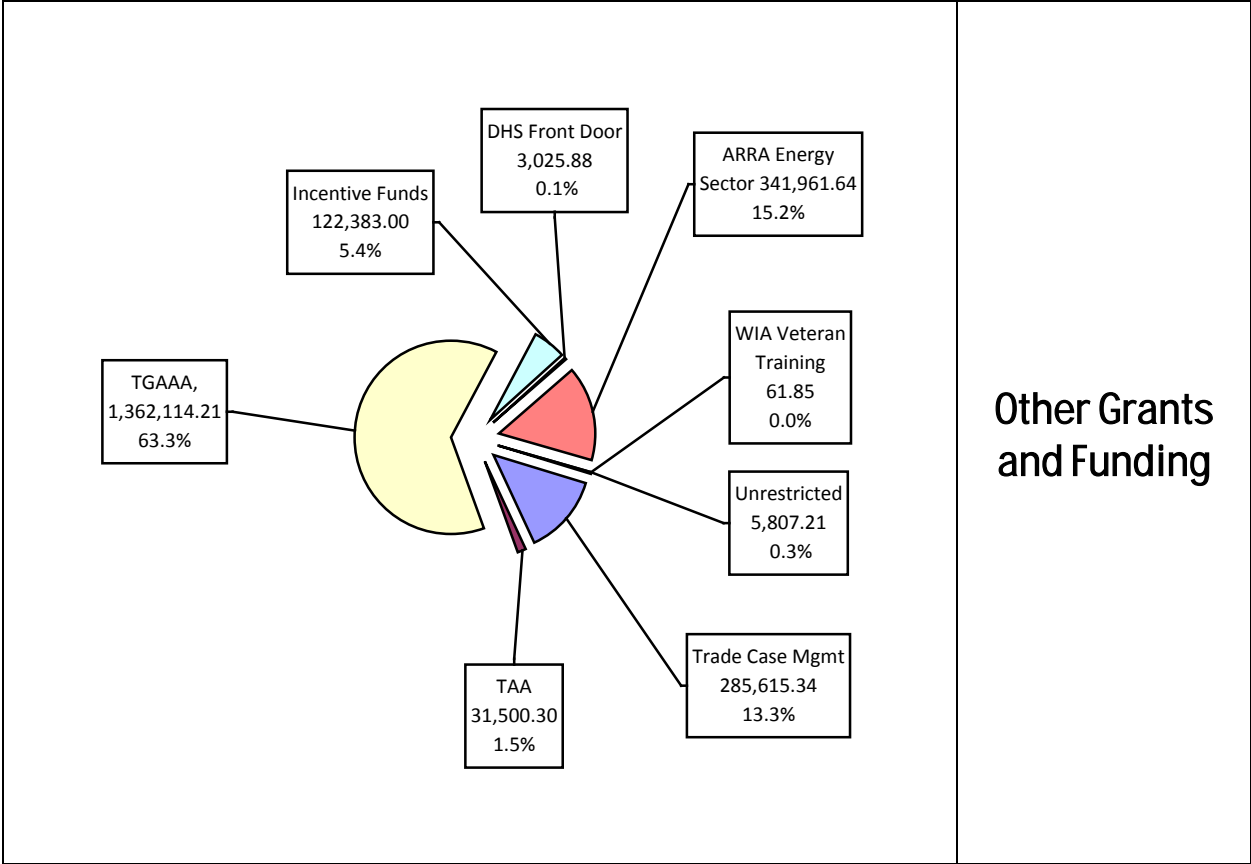
### WIA Formula Expenditures

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Administration    | 233,010.44   |
| Adult Program     | 1,045,912.85 |
| Dislocated Worker | 1,820,021.84 |
| Youth             | 1,222,587.26 |

### Other Grants and Funding

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Trade Case Mgmt       | 285,615.34   |
| TAA                   | 31,500.30    |
| TGAAA                 | 1,362,114.21 |
| Incentive Funds       | 122,383.00   |
| DHS Front Door        | 3,025.88     |
| ARRA - OJT            | 140,151.97   |
| ARRA – Energy Sector  | 341,961.64   |
| WIA Veterans Training | 61.84        |
| Other - Unrestricted  | 5,807.21     |





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