

For Immediate Release

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Nearly 1,200 Hired during Mayor Coleman's and COWIC's Hire1000 Initiative

Mayor Michael B. Coleman and the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) President & CEO Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert announced the results of the Hire1000 employment initiative today. After following up with job seekers and employers, COWIC representatives found that to date, 1,188 central Ohio job seekers found employment through Hire1000, exceeding the city's and COWIC's original goal.

"I want to thank COWIC and our business community for coming together to connect job seekers with employment opportunities," Mayor Coleman said. "Collaborative efforts like this one are among the reasons why Columbus is the best city in the Midwest for jobs and one of the strongest cities in the nation coming out of the recession."

The Hire1000 initiative is a partnership between the City of Columbus, COWIC, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. In September, the partners reached out to hundreds of local businesses, asking them to bring their open positions to a series of job expos and search for the people they would like to hire. More than 3,000 central Ohio residents attended the five expos which featured a total of 79 employers from September to November, 2011.

"This was a community effort," said COWIC President and CEO Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert. "Columbus' Department of Development provided the resources for us to create a pathway to work for jobseekers across central Ohio. The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department opened the doors of neighborhood community centers for each event, the Columbus Chamber reached out to its membership, and our private employers stepped up to hire. Through public-private partnerships and under the leadership of Mayor Coleman, we are pushing the limits of this economy."

"The different areas of Columbus in which the job fairs and recruiting efforts were conducted provided a very diverse and qualified applicant pool," Teleperformance Director of Recruitment Jim Phillips said. "With today's job market, partnering with organizations like COWIC and the City of Columbus is critical for any employer looking to expand."

For more information go to www.COWIC.org or to check out photos of the Hire1000 events go to the COWIC facebook page www.facebook.com/#!/CentralOhioWIC or to flickr at flickr.com/photos/centralohworks.

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