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COWIC President, C.E.O Re-Elected to Board of National Council of Workforce Development

Position will allow Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert to continue to push local initiatives in the workforce development system

Columbus, OH- The Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) Board of Directors congratulates COWIC President and C.E.O, Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert, on her reelection to The United States Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council Board of Trustees. The election took place at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C., in January.

“I feel honored and privileged to be reelected to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council Board,” said COWIC President and CEO Suzanne Coleman-Tolbert. **“The economy is starting to improve, and we are seeing the difference here at COWIC. This position will give me an opportunity to continue to advocate along with my colleagues for many jobseekers in making sure they receive a fair opportunity and are provided the necessary training and tools to return back to the workforce. “**

Coleman-Tolbert was reelected for a second term to the 22-member WDC Board of Trustees with support and recommendation from Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman.

“Suzanne is the driving force that we need on a local and national level for workforce development,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. **“Columbus has been named one of the best cities in the Midwest for employment and this is due in part to the public and private partnerships we have developed under COWIC’s leadership. Hire1000 was a great success and I look forward to seeing how COWIC’s programs and partnerships will connect employers and jobseekers in 2012.”**

The Workforce Development Council is charged with stimulating and enhancing urban workforce development programs and practices throughout the country. Coleman-Tolbert’s duties will include advocating for the local workforce system as well as representing the Council. She will also promote workforce development policies to mayors across the nation and to Congress.

Under Coleman-Tolbert’s leadership, COWIC contributed to economic development in central Ohio through several employment initiatives in 2011 such as Hire1000 and S.O.A.R.hire! The Hire1000 partnership with Mayor Coleman, the City of Columbus, and the Columbus Chamber exceeded its goal to employ one thousand people by helping nearly 1,200 jobseekers find employment over a four-month period. Through S.O.A.R hire! (Successful Opportunities to Achieve and Reconnect), Mayor Coleman, Coleman-Tolbert, and other community leaders encouraged local businesses, colleges and universities to hire and pay the wages for hundreds of central Ohio youth and young adults for summer internships.

Coleman- Tolbert looks forward to serving on the 2012 WDC Board and working with the local and national workforce development community. For more information regarding the Workforce Development Council or Coleman-Tolbert’s curriculum vitae, contact COWIC Public Affairs Manager, Brittany Westbrook.