

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS
WILL REMAIN OPERATIONAL THANKS TO TWO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

EDWARDSVILLE, ILL., Jan 17, 2002 . . . Recently, the Labor-Management Committee of Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois announced that it received two generous contributions from area organizations, which will help fund the committee through the 2003 fiscal year. The Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program (SICAP) trustees and the Southwestern Illinois Laborers Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) each donated \$10,000 to help fund various programs sponsored by the Labor-Management Committee. Historically, the Committee has received funds from the State of Illinois, however, this year the Committee was forced to reach out for other contributions due to the state's budget crisis.

Both SICAP and LECET are actively involved in labor relations with the Labor-Management Committee. SICAP, a nonprofit organization working to promote the betterment of the construction industry, is primarily funded by employer contributions based on hours worked by various craftsmen. SICAP supports educational seminars and training programs for industry personnel, conducts community education and public relations programs to benefit the industry and educate the public, supports economic development programs in the area, and promotes construction-related safety and accident prevention.

The Southwestern Illinois LECET is a partnership between the Southwestern Illinois Laborers' District Council office, and its signatory contractors. LECET is dedicated to creating new business opportunities and projects for Union contractors, ultimately creating new jobs and career opportunities for members of the Laborers' Union. LECET is also actively involved in representing and promoting the Union construction industry with the Illinois General Assembly, state agencies, and local governments.

The Labor-Management Committee is comprised of 12 labor, 12 management and two ex-officio members from companies and unions throughout Southwestern Illinois. The Committee was formed in 1983 by the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois to promote labor and management cooperation and communication in an effort to improve the labor and management image in Southwestern Illinois. The Labor-Management Committee will be hosting a Labor-Management conference and golf scramble in September 2003 to raise additional funds for the committee.

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