



## Gateway Labor Management Conference

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HUNDREDS OF GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, LABOR AND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO GATHER TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY ISSUES AND HOW THEY WILL IMPACT THE BI-STATE REGION HEADING INTO THE FUTURE**

#### **Pre-registration has Begun for Those Interested in Attending Conference**

**EDWARDSVILLE, ILL., June 4, 2007 . . .** Cultivating and maintaining a highly-skilled workforce is playing an increasingly pivotal role in the economic vitality of Southwestern Illinois and the St. Louis Metropolitan region at large. Location and infrastructure are no longer the only main selling points for businesses looking to build, expand or relocate. The focus has also shifted to workforce availability. With that in mind, the Labor Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois today announced plans for its annual conference, to be themed **Workforce 2010: Are We Ready?** It is slated for September 20 – 21 at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Ill. Pre-registration has begun and sponsorship opportunities remain.

“Baby Boomers are exiting the workforce at a far more rapid pace than those entering it, resulting in a more diverse workforce that pulls from a much broader spectrum of society,” stated Dr. Marv Finkelstein, executive director of the Labor Management Committee and a professor of industrial sociology at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. “But, despite what the demographic make-up of our available workforce was, is, or will be, certain characteristics of it must remain unchanged; the region must have a workforce that is highly educated, trained and experienced to remain a desirable marketplace. This will take cooperation. No single city, union, company or side of the river can do it alone. It must be a collaborative effort.”

To aid in this effort the Labor Management Committee's annual conference will bring representatives of government, education, labor and management from both sides of the river together to proactively address this regional issue. Conference speakers include Deputy Director of Federal Mediation Conciliation Services, Scot Beckenbaugh, who will examine the scope of this issue from a national perspective; Vice-President of the United Way, Russ Signorino, who will highlight local workforce trends; President of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Glen Poshard, who will reiterate the importance of education and training; and Nationally-renowned Motivational Speaker, Gordon Graham, who will speak on the topic of “navigating change.” Those in attendance will also be able to take part in concurrent workshops on topics relative to this issue.

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**WORKFORCE 2010: ARE WE READY?  
FIRST AND FINAL ADD**

Those interested in attending can pre-register on or before August 15<sup>th</sup> for the discounted fee of \$150. After that date, the registration fee will be \$190. All those registered before August 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to win free tickets to an upcoming Cardinals game. For more information or to register call Rebecca Boulware at (618) 530-6115 or visit [www.gatewaylabormanagement.org](http://www.gatewaylabormanagement.org).

This event is designed to foster labor-management cooperation and serves as the main funding source for the Labor Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, which is the longest standing committee of its kind in the state and bi-state region. Companies, unions and organizations interested in sponsorship opportunities also are encouraged to call (618) 530-6115 to learn more about contributing and availing of associated sponsorship incentives.

***The Labor-Management Committee was formed in 1983 by the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and exists to serve employers and unions in Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois. For more information about the Labor-Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, please call (618) 650-2681 or visit the Labor-Management Committee Web site at [www.gatewaylabormanagement.org](http://www.gatewaylabormanagement.org).***

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