



What: State of Working Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities

When: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Where: University of Illinois Extension - Vermilion County
12190 U.S. Route 150
Oakwood, IL

Cost: Free

RSVP to: Lori Brewster, Director, Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board
Phone: (217) 442-3044 x222; Email: vcwib@soltec.net

The new economy presents several challenges to the regional and state economy:

- ◆ A shrinking manufacturing base
- ◆ A growing low-wage service sector
- ◆ A demand for a skilled workforce in critical sectors

This forum provides the opportunity to:

- ◆ Explore the findings of the *State of Working Illinois*, a study of labor market trends
- ◆ Discuss the impact of these trends in the region
- ◆ Identify new ways to address these trends and opportunities for statewide partnerships

Background: The *State of Working Illinois* finds that between 1990 and 2005, Illinois lost 24 percent of its family supportive manufacturing jobs or 225,800 of its workforce. Increasingly, manufacturing jobs are being replaced with service sector employment that pays, on average, 29 percent less with fewer benefits. Over 35 percent of Illinois' new jobs will require an associates degree or higher; nonetheless, sixty percent of our citizens have no associates degree or higher.

This forum is a collaborative effort between:

- ◆ Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board
- ◆ The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
- ◆ Illinois Works for the Future Campaign

This event is made possible through the generous support of the Grand Victoria Foundation.

GRAND VICTORIA
FOUNDATION