

May 09, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Mary Ann Rojas named director of Workforce Development**



Mary Ann Rojas has been named as the City of Springfield's Director of Workforce Development.

Rojas comes to Springfield from Temple Texas, where she most recently worked as a consultant, serving as grant writer and lead project manager on Request for Proposal submissions; of which she has helped to bring in a combined \$26 million dollars for federally-run programs, such as child care and workforce delivery.

She has had a distinguished career in workforce development, business and economic development, system design and strategic planning. In her more than 17 years of experience, Rojas has served as Executive Director of Worksource of the South Plains and Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend in Lubbock and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively.

"We're very excited to have Mary Ann join the City's leadership team. I believe she will be a good fit, and will provide great leadership as we continue to support the community's emphasis on talent recruitment and retention," said Greg Burris, City Manager.

Rojas will oversee the Department of Workforce Development, which along with agency partners, provides services to businesses and job seekers through the Missouri Career Center, a full-service, one-stop center serving a seven-county Ozark region. The department employs about 60 people and has an annual budget of around \$4 million.

Rojas has successfully leveraged partnerships and collaborations with industry partners and educational institutions resulting in training programs and initiatives such as the "Get Your Job On" Summer youth program which secured employment for over 500 disadvantaged youth, and the Workforce Development Coalition, which received the Theodore E. Small Partnership Award in 2009.

"Springfield is a vibrant city with an abundance of assets, one of them being its workforce. I am looking forward to working with the City of Springfield and the region's leadership to further the mission of the Workforce Investment Board and its many partners," Rojas said.

Rojas' anticipated start date will be June 24, 2013. Her salary will be \$96,957.12

John Peine has served as interim director since former director Bill Dowling's departure last year.

For more information, contact Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement, at 417-864-1009 or [cscott@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cscott@springfieldmo.gov).

About the Missouri Career Center:

The Missouri Training and Employment Council (MTEC), in Partnership with Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB), developed a system of Missouri Career Centers to impact the State's workforce and economy through the provision of labor market information, access to career training, job placement services, and linkages between employers and workers. The Missouri Career Center System is the vehicle for LWIBs to fulfill their "quality assurance" role in a "one-stop" setting.

The City of Springfield's, Department of Workforce Development, housed at the Missouri Career Center, 2900 East Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65804, is the designated Service Provider/Operator of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs for the seven-county Ozark Region. The Ozark Region is comprised of Polk, Dallas, Greene, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney counties in Southwest Missouri.

The Workforce Investment Board and its agent, the City of Springfield Department of Workforce Development, is a highly experienced provider of workforce development services having operated training programs in the previous referenced counties for approximately 40 years under CETA, JTPA, and currently WIA.