

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

Our Mission:

Provide job training and placement for individuals age 55 or older with limited financial resources and to provide employers with trained, motivated workers.



SCSEP Newsletter

April 2019

Senior Service America Inc. - Bold Leadership in a Changing World

By Gary A. Officer, SSAI President & CEO



For nearly six decades, Senior Service America has been a national leader delivering workforce opportunities to

low-income, older Americans. We must now confront a new challenge.

Technology and the changing nature of work are promising a dynamic – yet uncertain – future. According to the Joint Center for Economics and Political Studies, 31% of Latinos and 27% of African Americans are concentrated in jobs that are highly susceptible to automation.

Occupations such as tellers, bus drivers, and cashiers will in all

likelihood disappear. Our future begins now.

We must urgently prepare our workforce for what comes next. We must ensure that our low-income older workers remain competitive in an increasingly age-dependent workforce. We must leverage technology to remain relevant and competitive. And, we must seek through our programs and with new partnerships ways to make available the necessary training and tools for our older workers to succeed. In other words, we must be bold and lead because the future of work is already here.

Senior Service America is evolving. Our experience means we are ideally suited to tackle the challenge of bringing underserved

Americans, including women, Veterans, and returning citizens, back into the workforce.

This is truly an exciting time for the organization. I invite you to join us on this journey. For more information about our local SCSEP, call 618-688-1180.

From the Manager's Desk



April is **National Volunteer Appreciation Month**, a time to honor all of the volunteers

in our communities as well as to encourage volunteerism throughout the month.

When a household member is unemployed, household finances suffer: savings are often depleted, debt increases, and households may have trouble paying their rent or mortgage. Long-term unemployment may not only affect finances negatively, it may also adversely affect the physical and mental health of the unemployed. Volunteering is a great way to help the community but also to keep active, engaged, and feeling vital and appreciated.



Gary D. Woods
SCSEP
Program Manager

Host Agency Spotlight: MERS Goodwill – Fairview Heights



MERS Goodwill provides a variety of programs and services to help support their mission, such as career counseling, skills training, education and literacy programs, employment services, and more.

MERS Goodwill has 50 retail locations and serves individuals across 54 counties in the bi-state region. Since 2017, the Fairview Heights store has employed six SCSEP participants!



Lakesha Bailey,
Asst. Manager at MERS Goodwill

www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep

