

Dakota County Workforce Council News and Notes

April 2003 Edition

Mission: Providing comprehensive, professional, and timely services for jobseekers and employers.

Welcome to the Dakota County Workforce Council's News and Notes. The newsletter's purpose is to provide you with an update of Workforce Development activities.

Upcoming Events

Who Moved My Cheese: April 24th @ Royal Cliff, Burnsville. Half-day seminar is "An A-Mazing Way to Deal With Change in Your Work and in Your Life." Contact your local Chamber of Commerce.

Stevie Ray: May 2nd @ Minnesota Workforce Center in West St. Paul. Sponsored by the Job Service Employer Connection. Stevie Ray will discuss efficient and effective communication, improving teamwork and increasing workplace productivity. Contact Jody Pepinski @ 952-997-4866.

Improve Your Business by Better Managing Employee Relations – May 6th. See page two.

Get Jobs Job Fair: May 15th @ Eagan. Contact Jody Pepinski @ 952-997-4866.

Workforce Council Meeting: 7:30 a.m. May 16th. Location to be announced.

Find A Summer Job?

Summer jobs for high school and college students will be tougher to find this year. Better-educated and qualified adults who are jobless will take many entry-level jobs that would normally go to youth.

But there are still some jobs out there! Young people should visit the Job Fair Just for Teens at Dakota County Secondary Technical Center in Rosemount on April 30 and the Get Jobs Job Fair at Eagan Civic Arena on May 15. Here are some tips for beating the competition:

- Be prepared for your job search. Have a résumé and references ready.
- Be enthusiastic. Attitude is everything. Employers want to hire people who want the job the most.
- Be respectful! Look and act the part of a mature employee.

Also, check out "The Zone" in person at the Workforce Centers or on the web. It will be updated over the upcoming weeks with summer job opportunities <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/zone/index.htm>

Teen Career/Job Fair

Hosted by the Dakota County WorkForce Centers and the Dakota County Secondary Technical Center (ISD 917), the Teen Career/Job Fair will be held 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., April 30, 2003 at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount.

Confirmed Participants: AAA Auto Salvage * Canterbury Park * Carpenters and Joiners Lakes and Plaines Regional Council * Construction Laborers * Cub Foods * Dakota County Technical College * Inver Hills Community College * McDonald's * MN Renaissance Festival * UPS * US Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy * YMCA * Border Foods * and more...

For more information, call Jennifer Olson at 651-554-6553.

Impact of Airline Layoffs

Dakota County Workforce Services (WFS) has been actively participating in the process for enrolling those affected by the recent massive lay-offs at Northwest Airlines. WFS has organized services for approximately 200 at its two Workforce Center locations.

Between this lay-off and the one following the attacks of 9-11, over 700 individuals have lost their jobs and are, or will be, enrolled for dislocated worker services.

Tax Incentives for Employers

A variety of tax incentives are specifically geared for employers who hire people with disabilities. For a summary of these incentives including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the Small Business Tax Credit, and others, check [Employer Tax Breaks -- http://www.onestops.info/article.php?article_id=217](http://www.onestops.info/article.php?article_id=217)

If you need help with the programs referenced in the link, please contact Rick Gubash, Rehabilitation Services Placement Coordinator, at 952 431-9415.

3.8% Unemployment Rate in Dakota County

The Unemployment Rate for Dakota County in Feb, 2003 was 3.8%. This compares to 4.2% in Feb. 2002 and 2.4% in Feb. 2001. The Minnesota Unemployment Rate for Feb. 2003 was 4.9% and the U.S. rate was 6.4%. Feb. 2003 unemployment rates for selected cities were: Apple Valley 3.3%; Burnsville 3.5%; Eagan 2.7% and Lakeville 2.8%. These statistics are not seasonally adjusted. For more information on employment rates go to: http://www.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/us_mn.htm

Late-breaking information from the Department of Economic Security shows the March seasonally adjusted unemployment rate at 4.4%.

Job losses in the state were broad-based with most sectors down in March. Trade, transportation and utilities shed the most jobs mostly due to losses in trade. Any cuts at Northwest Airlines will not impact this series until April. Manufacturing was up slightly for the first time since September, with all the increase in nondurable goods manufacturing, much of which was in animal slaughtering.

Source: [Current Employment Statistics](#), MDES and BLS

Improve Your Business by Better Managing Employee Relations

On Tuesday, May 6th, at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, Greg Wilken, of Seaton, Beck, Peters, Bowen and Feuss, PA will teach companies how to improve their business by better managing employee relations.

From pre-screening of applicants through termination of employees, the session will cover all the critical aspects of your human resource function. You will receive practical tips and useful advice from a seasoned employment and labor attorney.

During the session, you will also have an opportunity to work through a series of hypothetical cases and ask questions about real-life situations that you face on a regular basis in your workplace. This session is designed for front-line supervisors, human resource professionals, small business owners and others with responsibility for employee relations. Cost is \$25 and includes a hot breakfast.

The following Chambers of Commerce presents the event: Apple Valley (952 432-8422); Burnsville (952 435-6000); Lakeville (952 469-2020); and Northern Dakota County Chambers of Commerce (651 452-9872). Call any of the Chambers for more information or to make a reservation.

Find Employees on the Job Bank

The next time you need to hire an employee, one avenue to use is the Minnesota Job Bank. This free resource enables employers to post jobs on line or to screen resumes on-line to find job candidates. Check it out at <http://www.mnworks.org/>

Help To Start A Business

After the large number of lay-offs following 9/11, the WorkForce Center staff began receiving a lot of requests about starting a business. This led to the creation of the "Entrepreneurship Reference Guide" with links to area entities offering assistance to start-up businesses.

Contacts include classes for entrepreneurs at Dakota County Technical College www.dctc.mnscu.edu and Inver Hills Community College www.inverhills.mnscu.edu. The Small Business Administration www.sba.gov/mn, and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) www.scoreminn.org are also popular resources.

Anyone looking to start a business will also want to get "A Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota" available from the Minnesota Department Trade and Economic Development. Call them at 651 296-3871 or check their web site at www.dted.state.mn.us.

For a free copy of the Entrepreneurship Reference Guide, contact Betty Gennow at 651 554-5633.

In the Press

The average job search for white-collar job seekers is 11 months according to an article in the April 16th Minneapolis Star Tribune. Results were from a survey of 7,000 white-collar workers in the Twin Cities.

A Global Pool of Skilled Workers

The Feb. 3rd issue of BusinessWeek shows the total number of individuals graduating with degrees in natural-science and engineering from selected countries. Note the changes over the 10-year period.

	<u>B.A.</u>		<u>M.A. & PhD</u>	
	1989	1999	1989	1999
China	127,000	322,000	19,000	41,000
India	165,000	251,000	64,000	63,000
Philippines	40,000	66,000	255	937
Mexico	32,000	57,000	340	63,000
U.S.	196,000	220,000	61,000	77,000

For more information about contents of this newsletter, contact Mark Jacobs at 651 554-5622 or via e-mail at mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us