

# Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

## July 2003 Edition, Vol. 1-5

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

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*Welcome to the Dakota County Workforce Investment Board's News and Notes. The newsletter's purpose is to provide you with an update of workforce and economic development activities.*

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### **Upcoming Events**

*Job Fair – August 7<sup>th</sup>. See story.*

*Dakota County Fair – August 4-10. See story.*

*Dakota County Workforce Investment Board Meeting – August 22nd at the Northern Service Center, West St. Paul*

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### **Job Fair August 7<sup>th</sup> In Eagan**

The next "Get Jobs Job Fair" is Thursday, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> at the Eagan Community Center. Please note that this is a location change from what was previously announced. For information on the job fair, call Jody Pepinski at 952 997-4866 or go to [www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair.htm](http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair.htm)

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### **Workforce Center Hosts A Variety of Visitors...**

#### **...KARE-11 Television**

On Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, KARE – 11 TV reporter Kerri Miller, visited the NSC Workforce Center. Federal unemployment statistics had been released in the morning indicating the unemployment rate at the national level had increased. The report aired in different versions during the 5 and 6 p.m. broadcasts on Thursday. While at the Workforce Center, Miller interviewed an unemployed individual who was using the resource room to check for jobs and discussed the broader unemployment picture with staff.

#### **...Angus MacKay from Scotland**

On Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Angus MacKay, a Scottish political consultant, visited the NSC Workforce Center. MacKay is interested in government and private programs that promote workforce development. MacKay is a former member of the Scottish Parliament and former Minister for Finance and Local Government.

#### **...Researchers from ABT Associates, Inc.**

Alan Werner and Jesse Valent, of ABT Associates Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts visited with Employment and

Economic Assistance staff July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as part of their study "Serving TANF and Low-Income Populations through WIA One-Stop Centers." They're conducting the study for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and are looking at the issues surrounding Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) integration and at best practices. Anoka and Dakota Counties are the two Minnesota sites ABT visited. The public report from ABT will be available in the fall.

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### **Dakota County Fair – August 4-10**

While at the fair, located in Farmington, be sure to check out the Workforce Center booth in the Dakota County building. <http://www.dakotacountyfair.org/>

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### **State Services for the Blind (SSB) - Where Blind/Visually Impaired Workers and Employers Win**

It's no secret that there are many Minnesotans who have lost or are losing their vision. These are people with countless skills and valuable work experience.

#### **State Services for the Blind can:**

##### **- Help you retain current employees**

- Analyze job tasks and assist with job adaptations.
- Assist with reasonable accommodations for workers.
- Provide training on computer access technology, Braille, or assist you in providing audio tapes.

##### **- Help you hire new employees**

- Screen qualified blind/visually impaired applicants.
- Provide you with motivated, well-trained workers.
- Assist with reasonable accommodations for potential employees.

##### **- Provide employer incentives**

- Staff support is available to help insure a productive employee/employer relationship.
- Blind or visually impaired workers qualify for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

For more information visit [www.mnssb.org](http://www.mnssb.org) or contact Jannae Hanson-Parkes at 952-431-9406. Information is available in alternative format by calling 1-800-652-9000, TTY: 651-642-0506.

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## ***Interesting Job Vacancy Results***

The following information is taken from a web site regarding Minnesota Job vacancies for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003. A complete set of data and charts is available on the web site.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development announced that job vacancies in the state are down 22% from one year ago. This is according to the latest Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey report. Despite the decline in total vacancies, a number of sectors show strong hiring demand. Major findings are available at [www.MnWorkForceCenter.org/lmi/jobvacancy](http://www.MnWorkForceCenter.org/lmi/jobvacancy)

- 54% of job vacancies in the Twin Cities are concentrated in six of 22 occupational groups.
- In the Twin Cities, firms with fewer than 50 employees account for 38% of total job vacancies while they constitute only 33% of all employment.
- The top 25 occupations with the most job vacancies account for 48% of all job vacancies in the Twin Cities.
- In the Twin Cities, there are three occupations with 1,000 or more job vacancies: retail salespersons (1,700), cashiers (1,200), and registered nurses (1,200).
- 18% of total job vacancies in the Twin Cities are in the healthcare industry.
- The arts and entertainment industry has the highest job vacancy rate at 4.3%.
- The highest concentrations of job vacancies reported as temporary or seasonal are found in arts and entertainment (90%), public administration (77%) and utilities (56%).
- 40% of total job vacancies in the Twin Cities require a post-secondary education — that is, a vocational degree or certificate, two-year degree, bachelor's degree or advanced degree. Occupations that require a high school diploma or less (60%) tend to have higher turnover than those requiring post-secondary education.
- 43% of job vacancies require experience related to the position.
- 17% of total job vacancies are truly entry-level; they do not require any education or previous experience. The median wage offer (50th percentile— half are below, half are at this level or above) for all job vacancies is \$10.00 per hour in the Twin Cities. One-year prior, the median wage offer for all job vacancies was also \$10.00 per hour.
- Full-time job vacancies offer a higher median wage (\$13.00 per hour) than part-time job vacancies (\$8.00 per hour).
- 41% of vacancies offer starting wages below \$10.00 per hour; 3% offer a wage of less than \$6.00 per hour.

## ***Congratulations to Grazzini Brothers & Company on Their 80th Year in Business!***

Since 1923, Grazzini Brothers has provided enduring craftsmanship in tile, terrazzo and granite. Headquartered in Eagan, some of the company's projects include the Denver International Airport, Mall of America and the Federal Courthouse in Portland Oregon. Gene Grazzini is a member of the Dakota County Workforce Investment Board. For more information on the company... [www.grazzini.com](http://www.grazzini.com)

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## ***In the Media...***

From the July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*...

- Approximate chances that a summer seasonal worker in the Wisconsin Dells this year is a foreign college student, most likely from Eastern Europe – 1 in 3
- Unemployment rate of U.S. teens looking for work in June: 19.3%
- Number of service sector jobs expected to shift overseas by 2015: 3 million

## ***Dakota County firms in *The Business Journal's* Top 25 List of Women-owned Businesses...***

- #2 – Smead Manufacturing, Hastings
  - #16 – Hollstadt & Associates, Burnsville
  - #19 – Anderson Cargo Services, Eagan
  - #23 – Permac Industries, Burnsville
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## ***Looking for Information About a Minnesota Community?***

At mnpro.com, you can find a plethora of information listed by city, including:

- Who the major employers are
- Workforce statistics
- Utility and telecommunications contact information
- Information on commercial transportation
- Nearby educational institutions
- Available commercial buildings and sites

MnPro is a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development web site. [www.mnpro.com](http://www.mnpro.com)

***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](mailto:mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us)***