

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

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

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

Upcoming Events

Dakota County WIB Meeting – Oct. 17 at the Northern Service Center, West St. Paul

Job Fair October 2nd in West St. Paul Workforce Center www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair.htm

How to Answer Tough Questions...

Need help with your interviewing skills? Workshops are Oct. 21st and Nov. 19th at the West St. Paul Workforce Center. <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/newevents.htm>

3,778 Visitors – Great Hiring Opportunity

Interested in a one-of-a-kind recruiting opportunity? 3,778 visitors used the resource rooms in Burnsville and the Northern Service Center in August. If you are hiring, you can set up a recruiting booth or table in a Resource Room and talk directly to job seekers. For more information, call Jody Pepinski (Burnsville) at 952-997-4866 or Joe Klein (West St. Paul) at 651-554-6587. <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/>

August Unemployment Rate 3.6% in County...

This compares to 3.9% for the state and 6.0% nationally. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted. <http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/detail.asp?geog=2704000037&adjust=0>

Great Event Recognized by State

“January Jump Start” received an “Innovations” award from Minnesota’s Department of Employment and Economic Development. The event was designed for the unemployed seeking work. It offered a day and a half of motivational speakers and workshops on topics such as maintaining health insurance, starting a business, navigating human resource departments, and the benefits of additional training. Approximately 250 people attended the event held in January 2003. It will be held again in 2004.

Web Tool for Businesses and Citizens

ISEEK (Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge) provides information in five main areas: career planning, education and training, class listings, employment, and business information. www.iseek.org

Business Information

- a **salary calculation tool** enables you to determine appropriate salaries for a variety of jobs... <http://www.iseek.org/sv/41012.jsp>
- a variety of **wage and employment data** including information about employee benefits... <http://www.iseek.org/sv/60001.jsp>
- **customized training sources.** In four easy steps, you’ll be linked to colleges with the programs you’re seeking... <http://www.iseek.org/sv/60525.jsp>

Compare Programs at Schools

Another isseek tool is the Minnesota consumer report with **head-to-head performance results** for over 3,400 degrees/training programs. <http://www.iseek.org/sv/22035.jsp>

Start A Business...

Project “GATE” ... Growing America Through Entrepreneurship is designed to **help people start or expand their own small business.** Selected participants will be given access to special training and assistance in applying for small business loans. For information, go to the West St. Paul Workforce Center or www.projectgate.com

October is Disability Awareness Month ...

October is Disability Awareness Month. To promote this the Dakota County Workforce Centers will be sponsoring an event on Oct. 28, 2003 about the American’s with Disabilities Act. Specifically being discussed will be **reasonable accommodations.** What is reasonable? How much do they cost? Are there tax incentives available? What are the courts saying?

The seminar is at the Holiday Inn in Burnsville from 8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Cost is \$25.00. Call Stacey Pick at (952) 431-9405 if you are interested in attending by Oct. 20, 2003. At 11:30 attendees of the seminar are invited to a complimentary luncheon. During the luncheon, Workforce Center customers who have disabilities and have made remarkable accomplishments this past year will be honored along with their employers.