

# Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

## November 2003 Edition, Vol. 1-9

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

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**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.**

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### **Upcoming Events**

Dakota County WIB Meeting – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Dakota County Technical College

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### **County Unemployment Rate 3.8% in October**

This compares to 4.1% for the state and 5.6% nationally. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In September the respective county, state, national rates were 4.1%, 4.4%, and 5.8%

<http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/detail.asp?geog=2704000037&adjust=0>

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### **WIB Members in the News**

- Dakota County Commissioner **Will Branning** was elected Vice-President of the Greater Metro Workforce Council
  - **LaDonna Boyd**, WIB Chair and Economic Development Director for Dakota Electric, was re-appointed to the Governor's Workforce Development Council
  - **Bill Smith**, V.P. Manufacturing for the Waterous Company, received a "Rising Star" Award from the River Heights Chamber of Commerce
  - **Dan Engstrom**, Assistant Hennepin County Administrator – Human Services, was elected Vice-Chairman of the National Association of Local Human Service Administrators
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### **Start or Grow A Business**

[www.bizpathways.com](http://www.bizpathways.com) is an outstanding web site for anyone looking to start or grow a business. There are interactive business plan templates, business resource checklists, and much more.

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### **Raising Capital: Finding Financing for Growing Businesses**

Thursday, December 4, 2003, 7:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP, this seminar will provide information to prepare your company in raising capital from various resources. In addition, this seminar

will offer insights from a number of experts who will help you understand the complexities of raising capital via strategic alliances, co-development agreements and from the public markets.

[http://view.exacttarget.com/?j=209399&l=41862\\_HTML&e=sdupont@oppenheimer.com](http://view.exacttarget.com/?j=209399&l=41862_HTML&e=sdupont@oppenheimer.com)

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### **Current Trends, Future Needs**

A very intriguing speaker is Ed Barlow a futurist. [www.creatingthefuture.com](http://www.creatingthefuture.com). He spoke at the recent Dakota County Economic Summit and had hundreds of interesting observations. Here are a few:

#### **Getting old...**

- 52% of the country's engineers and scientists are over age 50
- 60.3 = average age of dental school faculty
- 44% of government workers are 45+ years
- 50 = average age of skilled machinists in U.S.

#### **Workers needed through 2008...**

- Manufacturing engineers, construction jobs, college professors, secretaries, bookkeepers/accountants, nurses, and teachers
- 2 million teachers needed due to enrollment growth, demand for small classes and to fill retirements. Areas of greatest need are special education, mathematics and sciences

#### **International students...**

- A total of 547,867 international students studied in the U.S. in 2001 and added \$11 billion to the U.S. economy
- 41% of all science and engineering doctorates went to foreign students.

#### **Why good workers leave jobs...**

- 41% - limited advancement potential
  - 25% - lack of recognition
  - 15% - low/salary benefits
  - 10% - unhappy with management
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### **Job Fairs Throughout the State**

<http://www.mnwfc.org/events/index.htm>

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### **The Great North Alliance**

For a fascinating look at the latest economic development and competitiveness news, interviews on business topics, detailed reports and other information check out

[www.thegreatnorth.com](http://www.thegreatnorth.com)

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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) if you have questions about contents of this newsletter.