

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

January 2004 Edition, Vol. 1-11

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 – Feb. 20, 2004
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce's Annual Career Fair - Monday, February 9th, Burnsville High School. For more information, contact Erin at the Chamber, 952 435-6000.
Minnesota Employment Expo - March 4, 2004, Radisson Hotel, www.alumni.umn.edu/expo

County Unemployment Rate 3.6% in December

This compares to 4.5% for the state and 5.4% nationally. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In December 2002, the respective county, state, national rates were 3.2%, 4.0%, and 5.7%
<http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/detail.asp?geog=2704000037&adjust=0>

WIB Member in the News

LaDonna Boyd, Economic Development Director at Dakota Electric, is the new President of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association.

Dakota County WorkForce Centers

Dakota County has WorkForce Centers in West St. Paul and Burnsville. Both offices have "Resource Rooms" which have computers, fax machines, and expert personnel to help you with your job search efforts. These Resource Rooms are open 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. West St. Paul is also open until 6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information, call the Burnsville office at 952 997-4870, or the West St. Paul office at 651 554-5667.
www.mnwfc.org/dakota

Unemployment Info for Employers & Individuals

Go to www.uimn.org for unemployment information. For employers, there are answers to common questions, rules, and instructions on setting up an account, downloadable forms and more. For the unemployed, you can apply for unemployment on-line; find answers to questions, and access the Benefits Handbook.

Eagan Job Fair Set for March 25

Get Jobs Job Fair is Thursday, March 25, 2004, at the Eagan Civic Arena. This is a date change from last month. If your company is in the hiring mode, this job fair provides exposure and is a great avenue to meet potential employees. Typically, more than 2,000 people attend each job fair. <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair.htm>

300 People "Jump Start" Career Search

Three hundred people attended the second annual January Jump Start held at the Dakota County Technical College Jan. 8th. The event was created to help "jump start" the career search for those looking for work, especially after the holidays. This year's day-long event featured two speakers and multiple break-out sections on such topics as "Selling Your Transferable Skills," "What You Really Need to Know about Budgets and Finance," "Job Search Over Age 40" and "Interviewing and Image."

The event received very positive comments and grades. Nearly half of the people at the event have been unemployed for more than six months. Manufacturing and I.T. were the two fields with the most attendees.

State Services for the Blind

State Services for the Blind is a state agency whose mission is to help blind and visually impaired citizens maximize their vocational and personal independence. Additionally, the staff assists employers. For info, contact Jannae at the Burnsville WorkForce Center - 952 431-9406. <http://www.mnssb.org/index.html>

What Is A Workforce Investment Board?

Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) oversee employment programs within a Workforce Service Area (WSA). Established by Federal law, there are 16 WSAs in Minnesota. More than 50% of the WIB membership is from the business sector. Dakota County's 21 members are appointed by the County's Board of Commissioners. Representatives from the manufacturing, utility, financial, and service industries are members of the WIB.
<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/index.htm>

Contact Mark Jacobs at 651 554-5622 or via e-mail at mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us if you have questions and/or comments about contents of this newsletter.