

# Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

April 2004 Edition, Vol. 2-2

*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 – May 14, 2004*

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## **WIB News**

- The newest member of the WIB is **Corinne Shephard**, Recruiting Manager for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, one of the County's largest employers.
  - The *Eagan Business News* featured an article on **Gene Grazzini** and his company's "tradition of providing immigrants with opportunity by hiring foreign-born workers."
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## **Looking to Do Business Overseas?**

The Small Business Administration, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American International Group (AIG) teamed up with a website to help businesses sort through some of the complications of doing business overseas.

[www.assessyourinternationalrisk.org](http://www.assessyourinternationalrisk.org)

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## **If You Need a Summer Job...**

A germ of an idea started with the Dakota County Youth Council has grown state-wide with a website to connect youth to summer job opportunities. Check it out at

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/zone/yapemployment.htm>

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## **What We're Seeing in the WorkForce Centers**

More people are getting jobs now according to our staff who work directly with people looking for work. Plus, more employers are listing jobs and using the Resource Rooms for "Employer of the Day" activities. Recent employers using the WorkForce Centers for hiring include U.P.S., Doherty, FLS, Express Personnel, and Treasure Island.

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## **Unemployment Information**

### **County Unemployment Rate 4.1% in March**

This compares to 5.3% for the state and 6.0% nationally. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In March 2003, the

respective county, state, national rates were 4.3%, 5.5%, and 6.4%.

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

## **Need Help With Unemployment Questions?**

- For Unemployment Insurance Assistance  
[www.mnworkforcecenter.org/ui/](http://www.mnworkforcecenter.org/ui/)
  - 1 (877) 504-5050 toll free
  - (651) 284-3033 in the metro
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## **Next Job Fair May 20th**

Mark your calendars for the next "Get Jobs Job Fair" May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Eagan Civic Arena. Eighteen companies have already reserved a booth. If you have hiring needs, this is a great resource. The March event drew over 2,800 people.

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair/index.htm>

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## **Dakota County Specific Employment Data**

If you like data, check out the Covered Employment and Wages (CEW) program which publishes a quarterly and annual count of employment and wages. The data covers 98% of Minnesota jobs, but not the self-employed and family farms, and are available at the city, county, regional, and state levels by industry. You can check the data in broad categories such as manufacturing or in more detailed subsets such as beverage and tobacco manufacturing. Here are some highlights of the Dakota County data:

- 9,624 "establishments" total, all industries employing 163,548 people, with an average weekly wage of \$719
- 9,402 private "establishments"
- 518 Manufacturing firms employing 19,191 people
- 52 Office Furniture and Fixtures Manufacturers employing 381 people
- 1,101 private firms in the "Construction" category
- \$1,803 highest listed average weekly wage – Nonresidential poured foundation contractors

<http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/es/display.asp?geog=2704000037&date=20030302&codeType=N&viewAll=1&ownership=00,50>

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*For past newsletters and information on the WIB and local WorkForce Centers <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/>*

*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 and/or comments about contents of this newsletter.*