

# Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

## September/October 2004 Edition, Vol. 2-7

*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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### **WIB News**

The October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Workforce Investment Board will be held at **Goodrich** in Burnsville. If you're interested in attending, contact Nancy Johnson at 651 554-5633 at least 7 days prior to the event to register.

Congratulations **LaDonna Boyd, Dakota Electric**, who was elected as WIB chairperson and **Cathy Weik, Stratis Health**, who was elected as vice-chair.

If you're interested in applying for the vacant WIB position representing the private sector, go to [http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/board/meetings/ca/ca\\_role.htm](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/board/meetings/ca/ca_role.htm)

Thanks to **Doherty** for their presentation to the WIB on an innovative video interviewing kiosk. The project was piloted in Dakota County.

The Dakota County Youth Council in partnership with **Dakota Electric Association** is requesting nominations for the Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award to be awarded to an organization or program, an employer or an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to and effectiveness in preparing young people, ages 14-21, in Dakota County for the world of work. Deadline is Oct. 13.  
[http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/youth\\_yesaward.htm](http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/youth_yesaward.htm)

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### **August 2004 Unemployment Information**

#### **Dakota County Unemployment Rate 3.9 %**

These compare to 4.3% for the State and 5.4% nationally. Numbers in August of 2003 were 4.2% for the County; 4.6% for the State; and 6.0% nationally.

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

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### **How Are Unemployment Figures Determined?**

Many think these are actual counts of the unemployed. Actually, the unemployment figures are determined using a random survey of 60,000 households. For the full explanation go to [http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps\\_hgtm.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_hgtm.htm)

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### **Argentina and Africa – Outsourcing Hot Spots**

The September issue of *CFO Magazine* notes that among the new locations for outsourcing is Argentina. The article reports that rising wages in India makes it a less attractive site to offshore business. The story also notes that many I.T. functions are now being outsourced to Africa, specifically, Ghana, Uganda, Senegal and South Africa.

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### **Workers Getting Old**

The September 27<sup>th</sup> issue of *Business Week* cites Bureau of Labor statistics showing that the median age of a U.S. worker was 40.4 years old in 2003. In 2002, it was 40.1. Oldest median age was 54.0 for farmers.

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### **Another Successful Job Fair**

Employers and job seekers alike were pleased with the September 16<sup>th</sup> job fair. The next job fair is in May 2005.  
<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair/index.htm>

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### **Resources for Employers**

The Positively Minnesota web site has a multitude of resources for businesses including information on exporting, small business assistance, and legal advice.  
<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/publications/index.htm>

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### **Robinson Selected as Promise Fellow**

Tamiko Robinson has accepted the Promise Fellow position with the Dakota County Youth Council. Robinson brings a lot of insights and skills to the work of closing the youth achievement gap and will be a great asset both to ISD 191 and to the partner organizations.

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### **Advice from a Director of Human Resources**

Applying for a job? At a recent meeting of WorkForce Center staff, Rich Ryan, Director of Human Resources for Waterous, recommended: 1) completing the application thoroughly...include all dates of employment and reasons for leaving; 2) be neat; 3) have job references available; and 4) ask questions other than about salary and benefits.

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### **Where Are the WorkForce Centers?**

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/maps.htm>

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