

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

October/November 2004 Edition, Vol. 2-8

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.

WIB News

Boyd Wins "Minnesota Vision Award"

LaDonna Boyd, Economic Development Director for Dakota Electric and WIB Chair was named one of the five "Minnesota Vision Award" winners at the recent Minnesota Development Conference.

"Boyd was selected because she has vision and insight, and she has demonstrated that collaborations and partnerships are effective and can accomplish great things," said Paul Steinman, President, Economic Development Association of Minnesota. "From economic development, education, and workforce, she has demonstrated that, not only hard work, experience, and leadership is enough, but building relationships and displaying a true understanding of vision are the keys to success."

Jodi Lindsay-Prange is the recipient of the 2004 Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year Award. Jodi was given the award because of her enthusiasm and creative thinking to find resources people need in order to obtain and maintain employment. In recent years, she has developed an expertise for working with youth in transition from school to work and persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

The **December WIB meeting** will be a luncheon on Dec. 10th at the West St. Paul office.

Dakota County E-Commerce Event Nov. 10

<http://www.dakotafuture.com/>

September 2004 Unemployment Information

Dakota County Unemployment Rate 4.0 %

These compare to 4.4% for the State and 5.1% nationally. Numbers in September of 2003 were 4.6% for the County; 4.9% for the State; and 5.8% nationally.

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

Local Schools Make "Top 25" List

The Business Journal's Top 25 List of Community Colleges and Tech Schools in the metro area by initial fall enrollment included:

- #1 - Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount – 12,000
 - #8 - Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights – 5,236
 - #13 – Brown College, Mendota Heights – 1,700
 - #19 – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Eagan - 140
-

Local Firms Among "50 Fastest Growing Private Companies"

The Business Journal's recent list of 50 Fastest-growing Private Companies by revenue growth included:

- #5 – Restaurant Technologies, Eagan
 - #12 – RMC Project Management, Burnsville
 - #14 – NACR Inc., Eagan
 - #15 – Lettieri's Inc., Burnsville
 - #17 – Orbit Systems Inc., Eagan
 - #21 – River City Mortgage and Financial, Eagan
 - #22 – Beckhoff Automation, Burnsville
 - #32 – Schadegg Mechanical Inc., South St. Paul
 - #50 – Micromedics Inc., Eagan
-

Job Growth in Dakota County

Year	Total Employment in County
1999	147,497
2000	153,375
2001	155,703
2002	159,749
2003	164,503
Total Change 1999-03: +17,006 jobs	

Thanks to Kyle Uphoff, Department of Employment and Economic Development for the data.

Improve Quality and Creativity On Demand

That's the subject of the Thursday, Nov. 4th Quality Council presentation at the Dakota County Technical College. This presentation is free and starts at 8:30 a.m. Call 651 423-8000 to reserve a spot.

Resource Room Numbers

In September 2004, 4,106 visitors used the two Dakota County WorkForce Centers. This compares to 3,791 in September 2003. <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota>

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