

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

January 2005 Edition, Vol. 2-10

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

The **January WIB meeting**, scheduled for Jan. 21st begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul. The featured presentation will be on the City of Rosemount.

January Jump Start – a one-day event designed for people looking for work and featuring break-out sessions on items such as Handling Tough Interview Questions, The Midlife Job Search and Job Search for Introverts is Wednesday, Jan. 19th at the WorkForce Center in West St. Paul. Space is limited. Contact Dorothy Walker at 651 554-5625.

Congratulations to **County Commissioner Will Branning** who will serve as the County liaison to the Workforce Investment Board and the Youth Council

November 2004 Unemployment Information

Dakota County Unemployment Rate 3.3 %

This compares to 3.8% for the State and 5.2% nationally. Numbers in November of 2003 were 4.0% for the County; 4.6% for the State; and 5.6% nationally.

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

Dakota County Quality Council Meetings

will now be held at 14200 Cedar Avenue in Apple Valley. Call 952 997-9540 to inquire about future events. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Feb. 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5.

Attention Entrepreneurs

Project Gate (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship) is still accepting applications. Hundreds of individuals will be selected in this pilot program. If you're selected, services you'll receive will include: one-on-one business assessment; formal classroom training; individual business counseling; and assistance in applying for Small Business Administration Microloans.

www.projectgate.com

Tax Deductions

"If you were job-hunting this year, you will be able to deduct all the costs and moving expenses, as long as you have kept the receipts. So tidy up now, and store receipts from travel, printing, parking, long-distance calls and moving vans."

Excerpted from a column by Gail MarksJarvis - Nov. 22, 2004 - St. Paul Pioneer Press

Wage Information

- \$15.25 / hour - statewide median wage for a Minnesota worker (this ranks 10th in the U.S., according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.) www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/oes
 - \$15.83/ hour – average median wage in U.S. according to Department of Labor (DOL)
 - \$1.00 / day – one out of five workers in the world earn less than this according to the DOL
 - \$732 - average weekly wage in Dakota County
<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/qcew/step3.asp?geog=2704000037&AreaName=Dakota+County&date=20040202&ownership=00&ownership=50>
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Employment projected to grow 14.7% from 2002 to 2012...

Information/projections from the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Job growth will be greatest in service-producing industries, especially Professional and Business Services and Education and Health Services.

Occupational categories projected to add the most jobs include Computer and Math-Related, Community and Social Services and Healthcare Support.

Minnesota's employment projections are available at www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/projections/

Services By Legislative District

Check out the number of people served through DEED programs (Unemployment Insurance, Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, Dislocated Worker, Workforce Development, Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, and Youth) by senate district.

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/LegisProfiles/>

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

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board Presents Awards At Year-end Luncheon

Charlene Delaney received the *Dakota Electric Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award* at the Dakota County Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) year-end luncheon. Pictured (left to right) are: Margaret Schreiner, Chair of the Board for Dakota Electric; Delaney; and Greg Miller, President and CEO of Dakota Electric. Charlene was recognized for "her 25 years as educator, employment education advocate and unsentimental friend to youth. Charlene has grown the Work Experience program at Egan High School from one staff to 3½ staff and from a handful of kids to the 125 youth who will have had the 'seeds of success' planted in them this academic year."



Dakota County Commissioner Will Branning received the *Friend of Workforce Development Award* at the luncheon from WIB Chair, LaDonna Boyd. Branning received the award in recognition in part for his leadership roles as Vice-Chair of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association and as Vice-Chair of the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council.



Goodrich Sensor Systems, Burnsville, received the *Business Champion Award* at the WIB event. Accepting the award from WIB Chair, LaDonna Boyd, was Pete Michalowski, V.P. of Human Resources for the company. Goodrich Sensor Systems has 1,300 employees and designs and manufactures aerospace sensors for the commercial, regional business aircraft, military and propulsion and space markets. Boyd noted that Goodrich "is a cutting edge company that is active in economic and workforce development efforts."



At the luncheon, Dakota Electric received the *Bob Killeen Award* for its "Dedication to Quality Workforce Practices." Pictured receiving the award for Dakota Electric were: (left to right) LaDonna Boyd, Economic Development Director; Greg Miller, President and CEO; and Margaret Schreiner, Board Chair.



The WIB also recognized legislators it worked with over the past year including: Senators Norm Coleman and Mark Dayton; Congresswoman Betty McCollum and Congressman John Kline; State Senators Pat Pariseau, Sharon Marko, Bill Belanger, James Metzen, and Mike McGinn; and State Representatives Joe



Rep. Joe Atkins and Bill Smith.

Atkins, Katie Sieben, Duke Powell, Mary Liz Holberg, Lynn Wardlow, Dennis Ozment, Denny McNamara, and Chris Gerlach (now State Senator). The WIB's Government Relations vice-chair, Bill Smith presented the plaques.



Rep. Lynn Wardlow and Bill Smith.



Sen. Mike McGinn and Bill Smith.



Sen. James Metzen and Bill Smith.