

Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

June-July 2005 Edition, Vol. 3-2

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

- No WIB meetings are scheduled for July or August.
 - Dakota County Commissioner **Will Branning** was re-elected as vice-chair of the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council.
 - Congratulations to **Linda DeHaven**, Director of the Employment and Training Center, for being appointed to the Governor's Workforce Development Council's Welfare to Work committee.
-

WorkForce Center Open and It's Business As Usual – State Budget Had Raised Concerns

Thanks to the passing and signing of the environment, jobs and economic development bill late on Thursday, June 30th, the full array of WorkForce Center staff and workshops are available.

The uncertainty of the State budget had raised concerns about whether State staff, who along with staff from the Employment and Training Center, HIREd and Dakota County, would be available.

Seeking New WorkForce Center Site

The Workforce Investment Board is seeking a second Workforce Center site with approximately 14,880 sq. ft. Contact lori.bravo@state.mn.us for specifications. Geographic boundaries are 160th St. to the south; Cty. Rd. 5 to the West; Hwy. 3 to the East; and Cliff Road to the North.

Job Growth In Dakota & Scott Counties

A Metropolitan Council report shows that Dakota County had a net gain of 15,300 jobs from 2000-2004. Eagan led the way with a gain of 6,054 jobs. Shakopee led the growth in Scott County with a net gain of 2,387 positions. The full report is at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/metroarea/employment04.pdf>

Job Fair Sept 21

The Next Get Jobs Job Fair is Sept. 21st at the Eagan Community Center. The previous job fair drew nearly 2,000 job seekers. www.mnwfc.org/dakota/jobfair

Dakota-Scott Plans in the Works

The WIB is working on a plan to include Scott County within the Workforce area. Scott is currently aligned in an area with Hennepin and Carver counties. The WIB endorsed the collaboration due to the similarities among employers and residents between the two counties. Since then, both County Boards of Commissioners approved a joint powers agreement. The final approval is in the hands of the Governor's office.

Scott County's WorkForce center is located in Shakopee. The WIB is looking forward to working with job seekers and businesses in Scott County and plans on expanding its membership to include representatives from the area.

Ten Local Firms in State's Top 100 List

Ten Dakota County-based firms are in the Top 100 Private Companies by Revenue as listed in the June 10th issue of *The Business Journal*:

- #2 – CHS Inc., Inver Grove Heights
- #25 – Buffets Inc., Eagan
- #28 – Northern Tool & Equipment Co., Burnsville
- #41 – Smead Manufacturing Co., Hastings
- #50 – Ames Construction, Inc., Burnsville
- #66 – Dart Transit Co., Eagan
- #70 – Norcraft Cos., Eagan
- #75 – Telex Communications Inc., Burnsville
- #78 – Cemstone Products Co., Mendota Heights
- #85 – Universal Cooperatives, Inc., Eagan

Sportsman's Guide, South St. Paul is listed as #49 in Business Week's list of Hot Growth Companies.

May 2005 Unemployment Information

Dakota County Unemployment Rate 3.4%

This compares to 3.8 % for the State and 4.9% nationally. <http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/detail.asp?geog=2704000037&adjust=0>

Salary Information Available

Minnesota's latest salary survey is available with information on wages and employment by occupation for the state, substate regions and the nation. <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/oes.htm>