

Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

Oct.-Nov. 2005 Edition, Vol. 3-4

Mission: Providing comprehensive, professional, and timely services for jobseekers and employers.

Welcome to the Dakota-Scott Counties 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.

Upcoming Events

- Dakota County Technical College's Flint Hills Entrepreneur Speaker Series, which features Darlene Mongoven and Carrie Caldwell, founders of Book-It! Travel is Friday, Nov. 11th from 7:45-9 a.m. Call (651) 423-8600.
 - The "County Wide Business After Hours" is Thursday, November 10, 2005 at Crystal Lake Golf Club, located at 16725 Innsbrook Drive, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This event offers complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and exhibits by members of River Heights, Lakeville Area, Hastings, Burnsville, Apple Valley, and NDC Chambers.
 - WIB meeting is 7:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18th at the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.
 - January Jump Start, a special day-long event geared for job seekers, will be Thursday, Jan. 26th from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.
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WIB Members in the News

- Commissioner Will Branning was selected vice-chairman of the National Association of County's Labor and Employment steering sub-committee.
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Job Fair Follow-up

The recent Get Jobs Job Fair, held Sept. 21st in Eagan, drew approximately 3,300 job seekers. There were 52 employers with booths with requests for space from 19 others.

Peggy O'Neill, Job Service, the overall coordinator for the event, said she received excellent feedback from the businesses. O'Neill notes that some new marketing techniques, including full-page ads in the Pioneer Press, contributed to the overall success.

September Unemployment Rate 3.7% in Dakota County; 3.3% in Scott County

The September unemployment rate was 3.6% for the State and 4.8% nationally. September 2004 rates were 4.0% for Dakota; 3.5% for Scott; 4.3% for Minnesota and 5.1% for the country.

Great Websites to Check

- Check out www.dakotafuture.com for a plethora of information of interest to job seekers and employers. Components include information on workforce, infrastructure, business resources, available real estate and more.
 - BizPathways is a one-stop-shop for information and interactive business plan templates for business owners. It's available for free to businesses and residents of Dakota County. Contact the [Business & Entrepreneurship Institute](http://www.bizpathways.com) or call 651 423-8601 to get a priority password to use BizPathways. Check out the general site at www.bizpathways.com
 - Keeping the Twins Cities regionally competitive is the theme of the Great North Alliance... www.thegreatnorth.com
 - For Dakota County demographic information... http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/oped/data_reports/profile/employment.htm For Scott County information... http://www.co.scott.mn.us/xpedio/groups/public/documents/web_files/ic_demo-economicframe.hcsp
 - For a glimpse of what's going on with the WorkForce Centers and the Workforce Investment Board. www.mnwfc.org/dakota
 - A bundle of resources for businesses including financing information is available at... www.deed.state.mn.us/bizdev
 - Are you an employer dealing with unemployment insurance issues? <http://www.uimn.org/tax/faq.htm>
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In the News

Upsize Magazine has two Dakota County related articles.. www.upsizemag.com/article.asp?issueID=31&articleID=592 and www.upsizemag.com/article.asp?issueID=31&articleID=593

Resource Room News

The West St. Paul Workforce Center's Resource Room staff served 2,754 in September and 3,158 in August (a record!)

Hurricane Katrina

As it turned out, not a lot of folks came here from the areas that were hit by Hurricane Katrina. However, numerous resources are available for job seekers and employers. <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/katrina.htm>