



Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board News and Notes May-June 2006 Edition, Vol. 4-2

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.

WIB Members and Updates

- The WIB recently added two new members. **Robert Viering** is the Community President for Sterling State Bank in Lakeville. **Jenni Faulkner** is the Community Development Director for the City of Burnsville.
 - **Steve Ditschler**, CEO of Proact, was recently appointed to the Governor's Workforce Development Council.
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Burnsville WorkForce Center Opens

Job seekers and employers alike have a new resource for finding a new job or finding potential employees with the opening of the Minnesota WorkForce Center at **2900 West County Road 42 in Burnsville**. Hours are 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 952-895-7600 for more information. www.mnwfc.org/Dakota

May Unemployment Rate 2.9% in Dakota; 2.6% in Scott

The May unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 3.3% for the State and 4.4% nationally. Dakota's numbers are the lowest since July 2001; Scott's are the lowest since May 2001.

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/laus/display.asp?geog=2704>

WIB Partners on Award-Winning Project

The Economic Development Association of Minnesota named a project put together with Vital Signs MN, Inc. (VSM), Burnsville as the Best Workforce/Training Initiative project in the State of Minnesota for 2006.

Partners in the success story include VSM, the City of Burnsville, the Dakota-Scott Counties WIB and WorkForce Centers, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and Adult Basic Education (ABE) in ISD 191.

Sharon Olszewski, who is responsible for Finance & Human Resources for VSM reports, "We are extremely happy to provide the opportunity for our international workforce to learn English at our job site."

English Learning Training Available

Public and private resources are available to provide English Learning Training to a firm's workers. Adult Basic Education (ABE) providers, which are aligned with the school districts, are one such resource.

- Burnsville – 952-707-4126
 - Farmington – 651-460-3211
 - Hastings – 651-438-0742
 - Lakeville – 952-469-7398
 - Rosemount-Apple Valley - 651-683-8585
 - South St. Paul – 651-457-9441
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Another Source of Workers

Short of workers? One resource is the Department of Employment and Economic Development's Vocational Rehabilitation Services Placement Coordinators.

They've placed people in businesses in positions including engineering, teaching, computer technicians, graphic design, customer services/support, administrative/office support and assembly/warehouse. The specialists can help on a case-by-case basis or with multiple positions.

They're available to explain the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the financial benefits that may be available to you. Contact Bonita Kern, Burnsville WorkForce Center, 952-895-7635 or bonita.kern@state.mn.us

Which Employment Posters Do Businesses Need?

Go on-line to find what posters you're required to have and get them for free.

Federal - www.dol.gov/osbp/sbrefa/poster/matrix.htm

State - www.doli.state.mn.us/posters

Minority Business Owners

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal recognized the following individuals with Dakota/Scott County businesses in their Minority Business Awards issue.

- Cathy Cruz Gooch, Catallia Mexican Foods, Tortilla Manufacturer, Eagan (*minority business owner*)
- Mike Pauling, The Biffs Cos., Portable restroom service and construction demolition waste hauling, Shakopee (*minority business owner*)
- Dr. Charles Crutchfield III, Crutchfield Dermatology, Medical Dermatology Practice, Eagan (*minority business owner*)
- Fred Dickson, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minn., Health plan provider, Eagan (*minority business executive*)