



## Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board News and Notes December 2006 Edition, Vol. 4-5

*Providing comprehensive, professional, and timely services for jobseekers and employers.*

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*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.*

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### **WIB Updates**

- Commissioner Will Branning is the new Chair of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA) and, Cathy Weik, WIB Chairperson, was elected to the MWCA's executive committee.
  - Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007 – January Jump Start – West St. Paul (see below).
  - David Schultz, Hamline University, is the “Eye on the Future” speaker at the next WIB meeting – Friday, Jan. 19, 2007 at the West St. Paul WorkForce Center. He'll talk about the 2006 election and the impact on the 2007 legislative session.
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### **November Unemployment Rate 3.3 % in Dakota; 3.0% in Scott**

The November unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 3.6% for the state and 4.3% nationally.

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

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### **Unemployed?**

You may be eligible for the Dislocated Worker Program, which has training funding available.

<http://www.mnwfc.org/Dakota/dwprogram/index.htm>

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### **January Jump Start – January 11th**

Overcoming adversity and challenges is the message that Jackie Pflug, keynote speaker for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual January Jump Start will provide to job-seekers. Pflug was one of three Americans who were left for dead during a terrorist attack in 1985. Her presentation reminds us that tragedy, suffering and everyday issues always contain the seeds of new growth and learning. Part of the day will also include job search topics on: Life After Being Laid Off; Networking; Tough Interview Questions; Career Liftoff; Job Search After 40; and 10-Minute Resume Clinics.

The event is January 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Minnesota WorkForce Center in West St. Paul. Admission is by ticket only. Free tickets may be picked up at the WorkForce Center while supplies last. For additional information, contact Helene Woods at 651.554.5908 or check <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/>

### **What Do You Want To Do When You Grow Up?**

Help to find answers to that age-old question are available at <http://www.iseek.org/sv/10210.jsp>. The site has a variety of assessment tools, resources and links to other sites to help you figure out what jobs/careers might fit your skills and interests.

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### **Salary Information**

A common question from employers regards salary comparisons. The State has salary survey information available on-line. [www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/wages.htm](http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/wages.htm)

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### **Local Companies Honored at Awards Luncheon**

The Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board held its annual Legislative & Awards Luncheon Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Eighty-eight people attended.

The following awards were presented:

- **Commissioner Bob Vogel**, Scott County - “Friend of Workforce Development”
  - **Commissioner Tom Egan**, Dakota County - “Friend of Workforce Development”
  - **LaDonna Boyd**, outgoing WIB Chair, in recognition of her 10 years as Board Chair
  - **Ryt-way Industries** - the Bob Killeen Award for quality workforce practices
  - **ConAgra Foods** and **Vital Signs MN** - Business Champion Awards
  - **Apple Valley Parks and Recreation** and **Park Nicollet Health Services** - Youth Employment Services Awards
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### **Workforce/Workplace Forecast – 2007**

Here's a forecast from the Herman Group regarding the Workforce and Workplace in 2007. The full report is at: [http://www.hermangroup.com/alert/alert\\_index.html](http://www.hermangroup.com/alert/alert_index.html)

1. Job Hopping to Accelerate
2. Employers Looking for Better Efficiencies
3. Older Workers More Highly Valued
4. Employers Will Embrace New Technologies to Do More with Less
5. Business Communities Will Address their Dissatisfaction with Schools
6. Continuing Increases in Training and Development
7. Off-shoring and Reverse Off-shoring Will Continue to Increase
8. Using Technology and Business Intelligence, Recruiting will Morph