



Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Investment Board News and Notes Summer Edition, Vol. 5-2

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 Updates

- Next meeting - Aug. 17th - Northern Service Center.
 - Dakota County Commissioner Will Branning was re-elected vice-chair of the Metropolitan Workforce Council
 - There are private-sector openings on the WIB.
<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/CountyGovernment/CAC/DakScott/default.htm>
-

June Unemployment - Dakota 4.1%; Scott 4.0%

The June unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 4.5% for the state and 4.7% nationally.

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

Leaders and Laggards

The Institute for a Competitive Workforce issued a "state by state report card on educational effectiveness."

www.uschamber.com/reportcard

Disability Related Questions?

Disability Linkage Line is a single, statewide information and referral resource for disability-related questions.

www.deed.state.mn.us/workforce/dpn/index.htm

Veteran's Reintegration Services

"Eye on the Future" speakers at the June WIB meeting were Jim Finley, Department of Employment and Economic Development, and Mike Labovitch, Dakota County, speaking on services and programs available for Veterans. www.minnesotaveteran.org
www.co.dakota.mn.us/healthfamily/assistingveterans/default.htm

Training Funds for Existing Workers Available

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/iwp.htm>

Jobs that Need Licensing

Many jobs, like nurses, plumbers, teachers and barbers, have licensing procedures. For some occupations, a license is required to obtain employment. In others, holding a license increases your job opportunities and may increase your pay, but you do not need a license to work.

www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=LicenseMN

"Pretty Darn Good Practices"

LaDonna Boyd, former WIB chair, presented "Pretty Darn Good Practices" - A Snapshot of Innovations From the Frozen Tundra of Minnesota at a recent conference. The 30+ best workforce-related practices included items in: Training, Events, Organization and Processes, Youth and Marketing/Communications.

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/news.htm>

Managing a Diverse Workforce Event

"Creating a Culturally Diverse Workplace" workshop focusing on cultural awareness, best practices, and ways to implement changes in the workplace was a success. Speakers included: Gayle Bryant, Creating A Better World, and Lila Kelly, Lily Kelly Associates. Dean Schwanke, Smead Mfg.; Cecilia Stanton, Mortenson Construction; Ann Graves, St. Francis Regional Medical Center; and Philomena Satre, Wells Fargo, participated in a panel discussion on practical approaches to addressing diversity in any size organization. Copies of "Finding Common Understanding" An Employers Guide to A Cross-Cultural Workplace are available for \$15 plus shipping. Call 651 554-5633.

Bank Skills Training

The Bank Skills Training course just completed its second class with 10 graduates. Workforce Services offered this training to individuals with an interest in the financial industry and who passed a pre-screening test. Training consisted of banking techniques, 10-key operation, customer service skills and employability preparation. Graduates find they have very marketable skills in a solid growth industry. Thanks to Wells Fargo - Burnsville for providing training facilities.

Looking for a Job? - You're Not Alone

WorkForce Centers have a variety of workshops on networking, job search, interviewing and more.

<http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/classwork.htm>

Resource Room Numbers

WorkForce Center resource rooms have computers, copiers, books and multiple other resources to help with your job search, resume writing and job applications. Cumulative numbers for the sites in Burnsville, West St. Paul and Shakopee are: May - 5,708; June - 5,292

Comments, questions or insights on items in this newsletter? Contact mark.Jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651 554-5622. www.mnwfc.org/Dakota