



Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board News and Notes August 2007, Vol. 5-3

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

Welcome to the Dakota-Scott 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 – Sept. 21 - Northern Service Center.

July Unemployment - Dakota 3.9%; Scott 3.8%

The July unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 4.3% for the state and 4.9% nationally.

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/laus/GeoSelect.aspx>

“Job Accommodations for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People”

Diane Currie Richardson's presentation is available at www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/news.htm. According to Richardson, the functional definition of deaf is “hearing is so poor or garbled that the person relies mostly or exclusively on visual communication (sign language, body language, writing notes, speech reading, etc.)” while the hard-of-hearing person “relies primarily on listening but uses visual cues (not usually sign language) to reinforce or double check meaning.”

New Site to Post and Look for Jobs

The State has revamped the Minnesota Job Bank. Many of the enhancements will make it more useful for employers.

www.minnesotaworks.net

Help from NASA

According to a recent issue of the *Kiplinger Letter*, “small firms can call NASA to request up to 40 hours of expertise from a civil, aerospace, or industrial engineer.”

www.spacetechnologies.com

Univ. of Minnesota Concierge Service for Employers

The U has an Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC) whose mission is “to enhance the ability of the world-wide business community to connect and collaborate with the University of Minnesota's rich lodes of expertise, technology, and talent.” <http://www.business.umn.edu/>

Medical Manufacturer's Event – Sept. 18

“Providing networking and support for manufacturers serving the medical industry,” is the Minnesota Valley Medical Manufacturers Network's mission. An upcoming event is “Learn the Secrets of Working with Medical Device Manufacturers.” <http://www.mnvalleymednet.org/>

WIB Training Successes

Bank Skills - Ten participants graduated from the second Bank Skills Training initiative. The training consisted of banking techniques, 10-key operation, customer service skills, and employability preparation. Participants had 15 hours of training each week plus nightly homework.

Entrepreneurship - WomenVenture provided training to Dakota and Scott County Dislocated Worker counselors in entrepreneurship. The training consisted of learning how to identify clients who are interested in becoming self-employed and who have the skills to do so.

Company Training - The WIB funded a project at St. Gertrude's Health and Rehabilitation in Shakopee. Six employees received literacy training to increase English language skills. The group also received workplace skill training in topics including: understanding job procedures and duties; interacting with residents and co-workers; communicating with your supervisor; and safety training.

Computer Training - Scott County recently implemented a new online computer training program. Training is available in computer basics and Microsoft Office software including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook, Project, Windows XP, Vista, and Quick Books. Clients may access this training at the Shakopee WorkForce Center and from off-site locations.

New to the Area?

Dakota Future put together a web page of resources for those new to the area. It is a site for those looking to move here or who have relocated and their family/significant others are looking to get acclimated.

<http://www.dakotawelcome.com/>

Resource Room Numbers

West St. Paul + Shakopee + Burnsville

July - 5,634; June - 5,292; May - 5,708; April - 5,511

Wilder's Twin Cities Compass

The WIB's August “Eye on the Future” was from Paul Mattesich, Ph.D., Executive Director, Wilder Research, who provided an overview of the “Twin Cities Compass” project which will “track issues such as education, economy/workforce, environment, civic life, health, housing and transportation.” The WIB was asked for input as to potential measures for the economy/workforce component. www.tccompass.org

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