



Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board News and Notes September-October 2007, Vol. 5-4

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 – Oct. 19, Northern Service Center.
 - January Jump Start – Jan. 31, Northern Service Center.
 - Get Jobs, Job Fair – March 20, Eagan Civic Arena.
 - LaDonna Boyd and Will Branning were reappointed to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Labor and Employment Steering Committee.
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August Unemployment - Dakota 3.9%; Scott 3.7%

The August unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 4.2% for the State and 4.6% nationally.

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

Area Small Businesses in Top 50

According to the *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*, area firms that are in the top 50 of “small Minnesota public companies, ranked by performance across five categories” include:

- #10 – Biotel, Inc., Eagan
- #17 – GreenMan Technologies, Inc., Savage
- #24 – Hypertension Diagnostics Inc., Eagan
- #25 – Ballistic Recovery Systems Inc., South St. Paul
- #33 – Xata Corp., Burnsville

www.minneapolis-stpaulbusinessjournal.com

Innovative Magazine for Start-ups

New Business Minnesota is a monthly resource guide sent to all new businesses in the Twin Cities metropolitan area during the months immediately after the register with the State. www.newbizminn.com.

Resource Room Numbers

West St. Paul + Shakopee + Burnsville

August – 6,017; July – 5,634; June – 5,292; May – 5,708

Copying a Great Idea for Youth

The South Minneapolis Workforce Center recently had a grand opening of “The Zone.” The Zone offers assistance to young adults & teenagers looking for work, education and/or training. The Zone originated with Dakota and Scott Counties and is being replicated at other WorkForce Centers. www.mnwfc.org/dakota/zone

Eye on the Future

Dr. Ben Kanninen, Superintendent for ISD 191, spoke to the WIB about “The Role of K-12 in Workforce Development.” He addressed issues facing the schools, student achievement, the effects of poverty, innovative practices (such as Project Lead the Way), and the ways employers can interface with schools.

Youth In Corrections

The September Youth Council meeting featured a presentation by Al Godfrey from Dakota County Community Corrections. He focused on three youth-related issues. Almost 11% of Workforce Center program youth are ex-offenders.

www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/news.htm

Helpful State Website

The Minnesota Dept. of Labor and Industry www.doli.state.mn.us has numerous resources and services for businesses and individuals. Topics include:

- Apprenticeship
 - Construction codes and licensing
 - Labor standards
 - OSHA
 - Workers' compensation
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Youth Honored at Tree Trust Picnic

Perfect weather greeted the annual Tree Trust Awards Picnic at Orchard Lake Park in Lakeville. Receiving awards were 64 youth who worked at seven different projects throughout the summer, including the construction of a sea wall at the Orchard Lake Park. Twelve youth received perfect attendance awards and seven received the Governor's Award for excellent work.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg of Lakeville and Rep. Denny McNamara of Hastings assisted in the ceremony and spoke to the youth. Tree Trust provides both summer employment and year-round services for low-income, at-risk youth in Dakota County.

Presentations in Randolph and Burnsville

Workforce staff recently took part in Randolph's “Project Northland Open House” and Burnsville's New Resident Reception. **Call 651.554.5633 if you'd like the Workforce Booth or presentation at your community event.**

Immigrants in the Dakota County Workforce

was the topic of a presentation to the Dakota County Human Services Advisory Committee Sept. 18th.

Presentation includes statistics, information from local employers on their immigrant workforce, issues the employers and workers face, and best practices.

www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/news.htm

More Attention to Competitiveness

- The 25 percent of the population of China with the highest IQs is greater than the total population of North America.
- The United States is 20th in the world in broadband Internet penetration; Luxembourg passed us last year.
- In 2002, Nintendo invested \$140 million in research and development; in 2006, the US government invested less than half that much on research and innovation in education.

Source: www.hermangroup.com

Entertaining and Educational Site for Youth

An interactive web site that features games, experiments and other experiences, recently went live, promising to introduce young people from fourth grade to young adulthood to exciting careers in the high-demand life sciences industry. www.bioworks.com

Preparing Minnesota for the Age Wave

Transform 2010 seeks to heighten the sense of urgency to identify challenges of the coming demographic shift in population and transform policies, infrastructures and services within all sectors of Minnesota. Five key themes form the foundation of Transform 2010's efforts:

- Redefining Work and Retirement
- Supporting Caregivers of All Ages
- Fostering Communities for a Lifetime
- Improving Health and Long-Term Care
- Maximizing the Use of Technology

If you are interested in a presentation, contact LaRhae Knatterud at 651.431.2606 larhae.knatterud@state.mn.us

Literacy – By the Numbers

- 12% of Minnesotans over the age of 25 don't have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- 8% of Americans graduated from high school in 1900.
- 60% of Americans graduated from high school in 1950.
- 36% of job applicants tested by major U.S. firms in 1998 lacked the reading and math skills to do the job they sought.

According to Minnesota Colleges and Universities

- 24% of entering students are not ready to read at the college level.
- 43% are not ready to write at college level.
- 85% aren't ready for math at college level.

Thanks to Rob Podlasek, Minnesota Literacy Council for the information - www.themlc.org

Youth With Disabilities

The U.S. Census has estimated that up to one in eight youth has a disability (some hidden or undiagnosed).

- 30 - 40 % of youth in foster care attend special education classes (DiLorenzo & Richards, 2006).
- 36% of high school dropouts have learning disabilities and 59% have emotional or behavioral disorders (Blackorby & Wagner, 1996).
- 75% of youth in the juvenile justice system have some type of disability (DOJ, PACER, 2005).

www.ncwd-youth.info

Hire a Veteran Job Fair – Nov. 6

The Minnesota Veterans Employment Service wants to assist employers in learning where to go and how to hire a Veteran. This event is structured to reach out to Veterans and Veteran's families.

11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2007
Earle Brown Heritage Center
6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center

Contact Gary Quernemoen at 763.785.6465
Gary.Quernemoen@state.mn.us

Upcoming County-wide Events

- County-wide Business After Hours, Nov. 29th – Royalcliff, Eagan. Contact your local Dakota County Chamber of Commerce.
 - Great Scott (County that is) – Oct. 25th, Prior Lake – contact your local Scott County Chamber of Commerce.
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Manufacturing Week - October 22-26

Almost one out of every seven jobs in MN is in the manufacturing industry and this industry accounts for 17.9% of Minnesota's total wages. In 2006, manufacturing produced \$34.1 billion for the state economy and is the largest share of the gross state product.

Business Service specialists in are available to meet with you regarding your workforce/training needs. Contact 952.895.7600 and ask for Samantha or Jody.
<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/mfg/mfgweek/>

New Assessment Tool Available

Job Service and South Suburban Adult Basic Education are partnering to deliver a new assessment for jobseekers and businesses. The National Work Readiness Credential is a simple and easy-to-use standard and assessment tool. The Credential was developed through a national process that included businesses, Chambers of Commerce, education and training professionals, unions and state Workforce Investment Boards in a variety of states.

www.mnwfc.org/dakota/nwrc

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