



Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

January-February 2008, Vol. 5-6

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.

Dec. Unemployment - Dakota 4.3%; Scott 4.6%

Rate was 4.9% for the State and 4.8% nationally (not seasonally adjusted)

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

Local Employers Honored at WIB Breakfast

The WIB's Legislative and Awards Breakfast was held Jan. 25. The following awards were given:

- **Ken Kooyer, Manager of Kenwood Avenue Starbucks, Lakeville - Dakota Electric Association - Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award**
 - **Independent School District 194 - Lakeville School District Building and Grounds Department - Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative - Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award**
 - **Rollx Vans, Savage - Bob Killeen Award**
 - **Grazzini Brothers, Eagan - Business Champion Award**
 - **Frontier Communications, Burnsville - Business Champion Award**
 - **Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz - Friend of Workforce Development Award**
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Is \$13.00 an Hour A Livable Wage?

February's WIB meeting topic was "Cost of Living in Minnesota," presented by Carrie Thomas of the Jobs Now Coalition. Their data shows that "each worker must earn \$13.19/hr. to meet the basic family budget for a 2-parent family of four with two workers." The presentation is at:

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

Their cost of living calculator is at

www.jobsnowcoalition.org/costofliving.

"Get Jobs, Job Fair" - March 20th

Event traditionally draws 2,000-3,000 people. Contact Peggy O'Neill (952) 895-7642. For more info and a list of exhibitors go to

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

Employment Projections 2006-2016

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics issued its employment projections through 2016.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>

227 Attend January Jump Start For Job Seekers

Attendees attended workshops and 61 had their resumes critiqued. Many also heard from the keynote speaker **Dr. Verna Price** about the **Power of People**.

Free Mandatory Workplace Posters

Most mandatory state and federal posters are available free. Go to www.doli.state.mn.us/posters.html to order Minnesota required posters. There are also links to the appropriate federal websites.

Foreclosure Prevention Info

The Scott County Sheriff's Office has reported that there were over 600 mortgage foreclosures in 2007. In 2006 there were approximately 319 foreclosures in the county. See the January edition of the **Five Points of the Star Newsletter** at www.co.scott.mn.us for more information. The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) has resources available at <http://www.dakotacda.org/homeowners.htm#MFPP2> Information about the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program can be found at www.hocmn.org and www.mmfp.org.

By the Numbers - Making An Impact in 2007

- **64,195** - visitors served in resource rooms (West St. Paul + Shakopee + Burnsville)
 - **208** - English as Second Language (ESL) students served by South Suburban Adult Basic Education; 47 - number of countries students represented
 - **1,354** - number of Dakota-Scott employers using the Minnesota Job Bank
 - **25%** - percent clients in Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) job club without a GED or diploma
 - **470** - number of MFIP clients placed in employment
 - **\$10.55** - average wage for those MFIP clients placed in employment
 - **373** - number of people in State Dislocated Worker Program placed in employment
 - **\$18.66** - average wage for those dislocated workers placed in employment
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West St. Paul WorkForce Center, 1 Mendota Road West, West St. Paul (651) 554-5955.

Shakopee WorkForce Center, 752 Canterbury Rd. S., Shakopee (952) 445-7087.

Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 West Cty. Rd. 42, Burnsville (952) 895-7600. www.mnwfc.org/dakota