



Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board News and Notes Spring 2009, Vol. 7-1

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.

Feb. Unemployment - Dakota 7.8%; Scott 8.3%

Minnesota's rate for March was 8.9% and the U.S. rate was 9.0% <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/laus/GeogSelect.aspx>.

8,294 Visitors to Area WorkForce Centers

The WorkForce Center Resource Rooms in Burnsville, West St. Paul and Shakopee all had their busiest months ever based on the number of visitors. West St. Paul had 3,957 visitors, Burnsville 2,740 and Shakopee 1,597.

Lost Your Job?

Go to www.uimn.org to file for unemployment.

Job Search/Workshops

After filing for unemployment, find local resources to help identify the next steps in your job search and networking efforts at www.mnwfc.org/dakota.

WIB Mission and Members

The Dakota-Scott WIB oversees employment programs for the two counties. Its mission statement is, "The Dakota-Scott WIB leads, collaborates and provides linkages that facilitate workforce planning and supports economic development providing individuals, families, employers and the community opportunities to transform lives through optimal employment." Board members are:

- Skip Bolton, Ryt-way Industries
- LaDonna Boyd, Dakota Electric Association
- Don Buckner, Infinity-Management and Development Associates
- Jim Cormican, Twin Cities Entrepreneurs
- Steven Ditschler, ProAct, Inc.
- Daniel Engstrom, Hennepin County Government Center
- Michael Farren, Star Limousine Services
- Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville
- Ann Glaves, St. Francis Regional Medical Center
- Eugene Grazzini, Jr., Grazzini Brothers & Co.
- Michael Harris, RollX Vans
- Ben Kanninen, Community Action Council
- Sharon LaComb, Dakota County Technical College
- Rick Martagon, BAC Training Center
- Mark McAfee, AFSCME Council 5

- Jane McKay, Mac's of St. Paul (dba – McDonald's Restaurant)
 - Dan Monahan, Wallace Carlson Printing
 - Gail Morrison, Inver Hills Community College
 - Faith Olson, Fitzgerald and Olson Executive Search, LLC
 - Clifford Reykdal, Northwest Airlines Inc.
 - Dean Schwanke, Smead Manufacturing Company
 - Corinne Shepherd, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
 - Mary Sullivan, CAP Agency
 - Richard C. Wagner, Rehabilitation Services
 - Catherine Weik, Stratis Health
 - Mike Yanda, Dept. of Employment and Economic Development
 - Ex-officio: Dakota County Commissioner Will Branning and Scott County Commissioner Tom Wolf
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Funding Available for Worker Training

The WIB has funding available for companies to train incumbent workers. Information (including downloadable forms) is at <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/iwp.htm>.

Summer Youth Program Applications

Available on the Scott County website www.co.scott.mn.us.

Upcoming Metro Area Job Fairs

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/events/>

UbiDuo

This new device enables WorkForce Center staff to more efficiently communicate with diverse customers. Designed specifically for use by persons with hearing loss, the UbiDuo can also be used to serve customers with speech impairments and those who may have limited English proficiency providing keyboarding and reading skills are present.

Project Work/Plan – Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)

DCTC launched Project Work/Plan April 6th. The program is offered Monday – Thursday from 2-4 p.m. in the central commons of the Rosemount campus

<http://www.dctc.edu/visitors-community/work-plan.cfm>.

Project Work/Plan offers:

- Networking opportunities with seasoned professionals and peers
- Access to computer labs

- Career workshops on topics such as resume building, marketplace trends, and interviewing
 - Information regarding short-term educational and training options
 - Access to college faculty, staff, and administration
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Opportunities for People in Job Transition – Inver Hills Community College

Inver Hills is offering information sessions, career planning workshops, skills enhancement classes, workshops on advanced job-searching skills, a variety of certificate programs with flexible start dates, and the nationally recognized ASAP program for adults wishing to begin or complete a degree. More information, including times and dates, can be found at www.inverhills.edu/transition.

Resources for Your Staff

Employers note that they are worried about the additional stress many of their workers have due to lay-offs of friends and/or family members. Information on local resources is available at: <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/docs/dcrg.pdf> and <http://www.capagency.org/pdf/AgencyResourceDirectory.pdf>.

Create Your Own Job

The WIB recently hosted a “Create Your Own Job Event.” Twenty-one people attended. Participants learned about “Creating Your Own Job” from Bob Voss an instructor at DCTC. They learned what an entrepreneur is and if they had what it takes to start their own business. Participants then heard from a panel of successful entrepreneurs including Patrick Boulay with New Business Minnesota, Dennis Stauffer with Insight Fusion, and Christine Pigsley with DCTC. The panel was moderated by Jim Cormican with Twin City Entrepreneurs. The next event will be held in the fall.

Other resources for entrepreneurs are at <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/entrepreneur.htm>.

Soldering Training Certification

Nine participants received the Institute for Interconnecting and Packaging Electronic Circuits (IPC) Soldering Certification provided by DCTC. IPC soldering is highly detailed work performed with the aid of a microscope. It is used to create printed circuits found in medical devices, aerospace and military equipment, and computer electronics. The graduates spent 12 weeks learning basic soldering skills and continued on to become qualified in advanced soldering techniques currently in demand with area manufacturers. The certification enables the graduates to obtain jobs with wages starting between \$14-19 per hour.

Veterans Helping Veterans

Information and resources for veterans looking to start a business is available at www.vetbiz.com.

Congressional Visits to WorkForce Centers

- **Congresswoman Betty McCollum** visited the West St. Paul WorkForce Center March 27th to learn about the experiences and services offered to job seekers and the needs of staff to support the increasing needs.
 - **Congressman John Kline** was the WIB’s speaker for its April 17th meeting held at the Burnsville WorkForce Center. Congressman Kline held an informal discussion with the group covering numerous topics.
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Shared Work – Alternative to Full Layoffs

From DEED’s website - The Shared Work Program is an option for employers faced with a layoff. It allows an employer to divide available hours of work among a group of employees instead of implementing a full layoff. Affected employees may then receive partial unemployment insurance benefits while working reduced hours. By participating in the Shared Work Program, an employer can maintain morale, productivity and flexibility in the work place.

The Shared Work Program is intended as an alternative to full layoffs. It cannot be used by employers facing seasonal layoffs and is not an effective tool for employers faced with a permanent downsizing. Additional information is at [Employers' FAQs about the Shared Work Program](#). You can also contact: Shared Work Analyst, (651) 296-0593, Ext. 45583 shared.work@state.mn.us.

Redesigned Website Helps with Career Exploration, Training and Job Search

www.ISEEK.org redesigned their website. It now has:

- new assessment and career exploration tools
 - improved searches
 - multi-media features like blogs, videos, and quizzes
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Consumer Help

The [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation \(FDIC\)](#) has issued tips to help consumers spend less, save more, protect against fraud and borrow wisely. The advice was published in the [FDIC Consumer News](#) entitled “Managing Your Money in Good Times and Bad.” <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnwin0809>.

Information is from the Dakota-Scott Financial Empowerment Collaborative. To receive their informative updates, email sheri008@umn.edu.