

Workforce Development, Inc.
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2009-2010

1. During the 2009-10 program year, WDI served over 8,800 adults and nearly 800 youth - providing intensive career planning, counseling and placement services for high demand/high growth occupations. We posted a Return-on-Investment of 440%.
2. Piloted and implemented the ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness assessment system. Issued 1,351 certificates to participants successfully completing the three foundational skills assessments. Held a series of meetings with businesses to familiarize local employers with the advantages of recognizing this credential and considering those job seekers.
3. Once again, passed an unqualified audit, with no questioned costs for 26 years in a row.
4. Using our unique method of partial merit-based compensation, we once again enhanced performance of office teams within our system, made financial reward to staff, distributing \$25,000 in bonuses quarterly. Despite the significant recession (8% + unemployment in SE MN all year) we have set 26-year records in placements (2,374), wage at placement (\$11.81/hr), wage gain, and over-all productivity rate.
5. Utilizing our demand-driven career scholarship program distributed 39 scholarships to WIA qualified youth and adults through-out the region; final contestant selections made directly by the industrial sector sub-committees of the WIB.
6. Inducted an expanded set of employers into our new program of excellence known as the Best Places to Work – attracted the largest number of applicants to date.
7. Submitted our organizational profile to the MN Council for Quality to be scored against the Baldige criteria – recognized as one of only 9 such businesses in Minnesota this year, receiving commendations for strengths in leadership, process improvement, staff development and innovation.
8. Conducted a Kaisen event for field staff, yielding 114 recommendations for positive improvement within the agency.
9. Lead the State in ARRA stimulus funds expenditures among all other WSA's (78% expended by December 31, 2009 vs. a 50% statewide average).
10. Organized an RFP for unique training offerings in SE MN, utilizing ARRA stimulus funds, garnering recognition by the State as a "Best Practice."
11. Contributed funds for: the creation of a second "Mobile Science Lab" for SE MN K-12 schools; the development of a green energy pilot project at Byron Schools; the creation of a unique collaboration in Owatonna involving Mayo Clinic, Allina Health Systems, and multiple higher ed partners; the training of math teachers from 5 schools in the region on how to engage students and improve math scores; helped secure an EDA grant to promote economic development in the 3 state region of SE MN, Western WI, and NE IA.
12. Partnered with Riverland Community College and the WIRED initiatives to offer outreach and training to those interested in careers in alternative energy, via "Energy Academies;" also collaborated with Riverland to promote healthcare careers throughout the State via DOL's CBJT-3.
13. Hosted a listening session at our Rochester Workforce Center with Labor/HHS Committee member and Senator Al Franken. Gave direct input to the Administration, by special invitation, at the White House Jobs Summit, and a recent DOL listening session in Chicago.