

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
2010-2011**

1. During the 2010-2011 program year, WDI served over 6,000 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 485%
2. Once again, passed an unqualified audit, with no questioned costs for 27 years in a row.
3. 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 \$32,500 in bonuses quarterly. Despite the lingering signs of recession 7% + unemployment in SE MN all year), we posted the highest over-all Return-on-Investment of all reporting WSAs in the State, and set record high ROIs in our welfare reform programs.
4. Utilizing our demand-driven career scholarship program, distributed 19 scholarships to WIA-qualified youth and adults throughout the region; final applicant selections made directly by the industrial sector committees of the WIB.
5. 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.
6. Helped organize and initiate the first Regional Professional Development seminar at Mankato in September of 2010, combining staff and addressing the objective needs of 4 WIBs in Southern Minnesota.
7. Lead the way in getting the rest of the State to endorse the uniform acceptance of the National Career Readiness Credential. In the process, WDI has given nearly 8,000 NCRC assessments to some 2,600 people, yielding over 2,100 NCRC certificates in the past 2 years – the most of any area in the State.
8. Nominated by peers from around the nation to the General Accounting Office as an exemplary best practice to demonstrate innovative uses of WIA funds in creating and operating our pre-vocational Academies.
9. Helped staff the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership and write for sustaining, competitive grants on their behalf.
10. Continued to pull together ABE consortiums in SE MN and lead the way in demonstrating cooperative FasTRAC instruction with the area Community College system. Secured ongoing funding for FasTRAC through competitive grant writing.
11. Secured funding via the Blandin Foundation and DEED for development of “intelligent Communities” and improvement of digital literacy.
12. Attracted funding from the GWDC and the MN Dept. of Energy to train solar/alternative energy workers, in conjunction with local colleges and the local electrical workers union.
13. Worked with partners from Western WI and NE IA to inventory STEM and economic development initiatives. Helped with the creation of a Community Economic Development system in SE MN.