

Working together to strengthen our future

1. During the 2011-12 program year, WDI served over 5,900 adults and nearly 450 youth - providing intensive career planning, counseling and placement services for high demand/high growth occupations. We posted a Return-on-Investment of 685%.
2. Once again, passed an unqualified financial audit, with no questioned costs for 28 years in a row.
3. WDI was one of the sites for the 2011 federal programs audit – the most thorough and comprehensive audit in Minnesota in 10 years – and passed with no findings or questioned costs.
4. 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 – published in the GAO report as one of only 14 examples cited nationally.
5. During the past 3 years of the CBJT-3 grant, we helped replicate HC Academies across the state, with 410 people going through HC Academies and 286 entering employment in Healthcare (70%). The academies are intended to help people begin employment in Healthcare as well as screen out those who are not appropriate for the industry; 70% training-related placement is higher than we have had in the past.
6. Utilizing our demand-driven career scholarship program distributed 11 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.
7. Continued high level career services to youth by professionally trained staff, and have expanded our “Career Connect E-Letter” with a youth focus to a readership of some 650 school officials and youth practitioners in the area.
8. Inducted an expanded set of 15 employers into our program of excellence known as the Best Places to Work – attracted the largest number of applicants to-date (30 complete apps).
9. 954 people in southeast Minnesota have received basic computer training through the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities project funded by the Blandin Foundation. These classes have been held in partnership with ABE consortiums across the region.
10. We have invested over \$370,000 in Green Jobs in partnership with area employers mostly in the Rochester area. 51 people have taken Trades Academy classes and 16 people have been placed into employment on OJT contracts. Recently we were awarded another \$330,000 to continue the work and incorporate safety and welding certifications for a Trades Academy.
11. Looked to by MNSCU to help write a statewide unified TAACCCT grant application.
12. WDI now sits on the national U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Workforce Development Council, and on the National Assn of Workforce Board’s Leadership Council – one of 13 WIB’s in the nation.