

1. During the 2012-13 program year, WDI served some 5,900 adults and nearly 400 youth - providing intensive career planning, counseling and placement services for high demand/high growth occupations. We posted a Return-on-Investment of 545%.
2. Once again, passed an unqualified financial audit, with no questioned costs for 29 years in a row.
3. Attracted and utilized a record \$2,466,181 (or 32% of overall expenditures) of competitive grants – both public and private - beyond our traditional funding sources, and unique to our region.
4. One of 4 areas in the State to host a national pilot project for serving youth with disabilities (DEI).
5. Utilized our 3-State EDA grant to help pull together local school districts and their Ag instructors to help promote careers in Ag Science as part of a STEM initiative with the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership.
6. In response to the return of the Minnesota National Guard Unit from Kuwait, took the lead in getting 108 private business reps and 60 public agency reps to be trained in the challenges facing Veterans, and then provided career counseling and sector-based guidance to the returning Vets at their 30 and 60 day reintegration events. The outcome was an unqualified success, according to Brigadier General Nash, with the area's Veteran's unemployment rate one of the lowest in the nation at just over 1%.
7. Part of a special technical assistance grant from OVAE to Minnesota (1 of 5 nationally) to demonstrate coordination between Career and Tech Ed, Community Colleges, ABE and the Workforce Centers; Rochester selected as a special pilot site due to our demonstrated coordination.
8. Upgraded our space and customer service by moving our office in Dodge County to Kasson, MN.
9. Having finally secured bonding money to build a new Rochester Workforce Center at the Heintz Center Campus, participated in a ground-breaking ceremony and completed construction documents.
10. Helped pull together the staff of 4 WSA's within all of Southern Minnesota for a day of professional development in Mankato.
11. Held our first "Skills Gap Solutions EXPO", with 125 partner agencies, employers and legislators present.
12. Inducted another 15 exemplary businesses in SE MN into our "Best Places to Work" program.
13. Member of the US Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development Policy Committee, and the NAWB Workforce Leadership Council.
14. Asked to give direct testimony to the Congressional Joint Economic Committee on the plight of the long term unemployed and possible solutions.
15. WDI was awarded one of 2 national Excellence Awards for WIB activities by NAWB.