



**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
2013-2014**

Working together to strengthen our future

1. During the 2013-14 program year, WDI served some 4,530 adults and 370 youth - providing intensive career planning, counseling and placement services for high demand/high growth occupations. We posted a Return-on-Investment of 475%, with an average cost served less than 4 years ago.
2. Once again, passed an unqualified financial audit, with no questioned costs for 30 years in a row!
3. Attracted and utilized \$1,998,468 (or 25.7% of overall expenditures) of competitive grants – both public and private - beyond our traditional funding sources, and unique to our region. Private grants included the Bremer Foundation, the United Way of Austin, the Hormel Foundation, the Rochester United way and the IBM Foundation.
4. 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, Rochester Chamber and the Workforce Centers; developed a Memorandum of Understanding between the partners that will serve as a basis for developing a broader network throughout the region.
5. Executed an agreement to move the Owatonna Workforce center to the Riverland Owatonna college campus starting 7/1/14; continued our work to move the Rochester Workforce Center to the new RCTC Heintz Center space in August of 2014.
6. Established a very successful series of Career Fairs, held at the RCTC Heintz Center, promoting careers in Information Technology, Construction and Health Care.
7. Received a record number of applications, and inducted 15 exemplary businesses in SE MN into our "Best Places to Work" program.
8. Member of the US Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development Committee, and the NAWB Workforce Leadership Council, working to support a reauthorized public workforce development system.
9. One of 4 areas in the State to host a national pilot project for serving youth with disabilities (DEI).
10. Administered (2) MN Job Skills Partnership Low Income Grants to serve 105 Healthcare Academy students through 2015. During 2013-14, 62 students were supported with these funds. For the period July through December, 2013, the Healthcare Academy program showed a 478% Return on Investment.
11. Partnered with DEED to obtain a Foreign Trained Health Care Professionals grant to support Health Practitioners (doctors, nurses, etc.) to obtain credentials necessary to practice in the United States. From the start of the project in November, 2013 through April, 2014 32 professionals have been enrolled in the program. Additional funds beyond the initial allocation bring the total available in the project to \$94,975.
12. Continued to partner with RCTC and Riverland to deliver Navigator services under the Department of Labor Bridges2Healthcare project administered out of Northeast Iowa Community College.

13. A FastTRAC Regional Welding project ending March, 2014 partnered to deliver Adult Basic Education preparation classes and integrated college-level welding training in three communities: Faribault, Owatonna and Rochester.
14. Partnered with Hiawatha Valley Adult Basic Education to provide Navigator services to their Adult Workforce Development Competitive project in Red Wing.
15. Awarded 3 competitive grants to provide WIA Youth services in the Red Wing, Austin and Northfield area.
16. Assisted the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership in writing for, and securing, a State grant to get the region's High School Ag Instructors certified as upgraded C.A.S.E. curriculum experts, promoting science and technology in Agriculture.
17. Assisted in piloting a new set of analytical tools for economic modeling and current job openings for the region, known as the Itasca Project.
18. Took the lead in establishing a high school Youth Apprenticeship Program for Manufacturing in the Albert Lea area that was recognized by the State Chamber of Commerce as exemplary and a best practice.
19. Administered nearly 15,000 ACT WorkKeys assessments in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics and Locating Information to over 5,000 participants resulting in about 3,500 employer-recognized National Career Readiness Certificates.
20. Trained and established a network of WDI Career Counselors who represent specialized skills and insight into industrial sectors, known as "Career Coaches"
21. Once again, have had numerous recognitions for outstanding staff accomplishments, including the Project of the Year for the Collaborative Leadership Fellows program in Rochester, and Statewide employee appreciation recognition from DEED for Counselor achievement.
22. Continued to operate as the International Help Desk for the IBM voice-recognition software product, known as Reading Recognition, teaching workplace English in over 50 countries; WDI has now authored and recorder over 800 electronic workbooks promoting workplace literacy.
23. Continued to grow the weekly Keeping Communication Current newsletter, currently distributed to nearly 800 individuals across the nation. Subscribers include employers, K-20 educators, legislators and workforce partners and stakeholders in workforce issues.