

**Workforce Development Council Meeting**  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
September 23, 2008

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| A. Call to Order                        | Warren Lotsberg                  |
| B. Approval of Minutes                  | Warren Lotsberg                  |
| C. Director's Report                    | Bill Molseed                     |
| D. New Business                         |                                  |
| 1. Dakota Seeds Internship Approval     | Ann Gesick Johnson <b>Action</b> |
| 2. Technical Institute Placement Report | Mark Wilson                      |
| 3. WIA Award Winners                    | Deb Halling                      |
| 4. Annual Report                        | Kathy Evans                      |
| 5. Regional Innovation Grant (RIG)      | Bill McEntaffer                  |
| E. Adjournment                          |                                  |

The agenda was amended to move agenda item 2, Technical Institute Placement Report until the next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM A CALL TO ORDER**

The South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC) met via Dakota Digital Network (DDN) on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Council Chairman Warren Lotsberg at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Warren Lotsberg, Chairman	Patricia Kenner	Cal Geis
Mark Wilson	D. J. Mertens	Pam Roberts
Larry Tolzin	Helen Wegner	Roland Benson
Ann Gesick Johnson	Wally Myers	

**Members Absent**

Pat Lund, Vice Chairwoman	George Cook	Paul Gough
Shelley Stingley	Grady Kickul	

### **Others Present**

Bill Molseed	Kari Porch	Marcia Hultman
Deb Halling	Bill McEntaffer	Robert Kean
Gloria Pluimer	Marcia Hess	Alberta Rouse
Sheri Duke	Melodee Lane	

### **AGENDA ITEM B APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Larry Tolzin made a motion to approve the July 9, 2008 minutes. D. J. Mertens seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

### **AGENDA ITEM C DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Federal Legislation**

Summer recess brought a halt to any action at the federal level on spending bills, and any possible changes to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Congress returned from summer recess on September 8, 2008. They need to decide how to fund the many federal programs probably with a continuing resolution. The continuing resolution would authorize funds until Congress and the administration agree to specifics on the various budget proposals. The federal year ends September 30, 2008.

Questions on a continuing resolution revolve around the length and the amount of the appropriation in the resolution. It is not clear if the president will sign a longer term resolution or insist on a shorter term through the November elections, which would be followed by a lame-duck Congress with a new administration to consider. Funding under a continuing resolution is likely to be level funding, but some in Congress are pushing for funding increases, which would more certainly face a veto.

All eyes are on the national economy with concerns on rising deficits, the housing market, hurricane disasters, and uncertainty in the financial arena. The national unemployment rate is more than six percent, while South Dakota is about half the national rate. Although some industry sectors at the national level are showing declines, South Dakota is showing some growth and stability. South Dakota is not immune from these national issues, but is doing much better than most of the country. This contrast demonstrates South Dakota has well-managed business operations, productive workers, and a pro-active business environment. The SDDOL will continue to monitor these events and keep the WDC informed on how the issues may impact the work DOL delivers.

#### **State Updates**

DOL has recently taken action on recommendations from local office managers to identify the local offices as DOL. They will no longer be referred to as "Career Centers." This does not change what DOL does, but rather recognizes the work the local offices do is the work of DOL.

DOL has updated its Web site. The Web site address is [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org). The Web site address was mailed to the WDC members for their review. The site is more user-friendly and has access to a lot of information important to DOL, the business community, and the public in general.

DOL also enhanced the Web site for the Governor's Workforce 2025 Initiative. The Web site address is [www.workforce2025.com](http://www.workforce2025.com). This Web site address was also sent to the WDC members for their review. At previous WDC meetings, the components of the Governor's Workforce 2025 were presented. These components include Dakota Roots, Dakota Seeds, Grow Dakota, Build Dakota, and Live Dakota.

The Workforce 2025 promotional video has been updated and the new version is included on the enhanced Web site. The updates provide more details on Build Dakota, and include more information on the industries of focus, action steps and goals. Under Grow Dakota, the updates demonstrate the state's technical institutes' contributions and role under the 2025 Initiative. Statistics and testaments for Dakota Roots have been added. Dakota Roots has 300 business partners, about 1,300 active seekers, and 565 people entered employment in South Dakota through Dakota Roots. It continues to grow.

The South Dakota WIA program continues to be delivered successfully. Indicators for last program year (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) show the state has once again met or exceeded all required WIA performance measures. Congratulations are well deserved by our state-level staff, DOL local office staff, Career Learning Centers, and Alternative School programs. DOL will certainly try to sustain this high level of achievement, but continuous improvements in the face of serious budget reductions are difficult to sustain.

DOL provided letters of support for two separate applications for a U.S. Department of Labor Grant for Technology Based Learning, one from Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and another from Lake Area Technical Institute. The purpose of the grants is to expand access to training through the use of technology resulting in an increase in the number of workers trained for high-growth, high-demand occupations. DOL is always looking to partners with organizations seeking to help build our workforce.

Bill Molseed recently attended the national Workforce Innovations Conference. The conference was very informative, but as with many national meetings, Bill came away with the sense of "we do it right" in South Dakota. One of the breakout meetings, a session allegedly on serving youth in rural communities instead focused on how to get suburban youth to service providers when mass transit is not available. The conference was not all like this, but certain parts clearly did not apply to DOL.

## **AGENDA ITEM D NEW BUSINESS**

### **AGENDA ITEM D1 DAKOTA SEEDS INTERNSHIP APPROVAL**

Ann Gesick Johnson, Department of Tourism and State Development, provided a handout listing four businesses that applied for funding from Dakota Seeds to provide internship opportunities in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Staff with the Dakota Seeds program recommended funding three of the applicants for \$2,000 each. The businesses recommended for funding included DataSync and PhotoBioMed from Sioux Falls, and Southeast Job Link from Yankton.

Helen Wegner made a motion to approve funding for the three businesses for \$2,000 each. Patricia Kenner seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Staff with the Dakota Seeds program recommended not funding Sioux Corporation out of Sioux Falls. Sioux Corporation's application did not meet the criteria for the STEM fields.

Cal Geis made a motion to deny funding for Sioux Corporation. D. J. Mertens seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

### **AGENDA ITEM D2 TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PLACEMENT REPORT**

The agenda was amended to include the technical institute placement report at the next WDC meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM D3 WIA AWARD WINNERS**

Deb Halling, DOL Program Specialist, provided an update on the PY2008 WIA award winners. There were eight categories used in selecting awards recipients. The categories included adult and youth participants, adult and youth training providers, small and large businesses, partner, and professional staff person.

DOL received 26 nominations. The largest groups of nominations were in the adult and youth participant's categories.

Patricia Kenner and Pat Lund read the nomination forms and selected the award winners. Thank you, Pat and Patricia.

The award winners will be presented with a clock engraved with their name and the award they received at regional meetings to be held in Aberdeen, Vermillion, Madison, and Rapid City.

Glendale Jackson from Sioux Falls was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Adult Participant. Glendale was nominated by the Sioux Falls local office. After a few

years of entry level positions and an abusive relationship, Glendale decided to take charge of her life and began studying for the commercial driver's license (CDL) test. She passed the written test, but discovered as she began looking for employment that she had no practical experience and ran up against a lot of barriers. She came to the Sioux Falls local office very discouraged and felt the attempts to better herself weren't working. At the local office, WIA staff encouraged Glendale to attend the formal CDL training at Southeast Technical Institute, to improve her chances for obtaining employment. Within a few weeks of completing the program, Glendale obtained employment, got her own truck and was interviewed on television for a segment on women in the trucking industry.

Sid Gonsor from Aberdeen was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Adult Training Provider. Sid was nominated by the Aberdeen local office. Sid is an instructor for the CDL program at the Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center. When the local office refers individuals to the CDL program, Sid asks a lot of questions about the needs of the individuals and does everything in his power to ensure all participants in his program are successful. He donates extra time riding with people in the truck and tutoring them for the tests. The local office is thrilled with the number of WIA participants completing the program. In the past two years, 23 individuals enrolled in the course, and 21 completed the course.

Jenni Coffman from Aberdeen was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Youth Participant. Jenni was nominated by the Aberdeen local office and the Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center. Jenni came to the Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center when she was 17 years old and had just completed treatment for addiction issues and was under court supervision. Jenni came from a broken home and her parent's home was being condemned. WIA services helped Jenni graduate from high school and find employment. Jenni stepped up to the plate, started working to provide for her new daughter and younger brother and sister.

Terry Schneider, Southeast Technical Institute, from Sioux Falls was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Youth Training Provider. Terry was nominated by the Sioux Falls local office. Terry has been a long-term training provider in the welding program at Southeast Technical Institute who stepped up to the plate this year when he had a hearing-impaired student. An interpreter had to be present during each class period and in the afternoons during the hands-on activities a lot of notes were exchanged. Terry spent a lot of extra time to ensure the hearing-impaired student had all the information he needed to succeed in the program.

Breyfogle Plumbing and Heating from Sioux Falls was selected as the Outstanding Small Employer. Breyfogle was nominated by the Sioux Falls local office. Breyfogle, a small locally owned business, had just listed a job opening for an experienced plumber when an individual who had just been released from prison came into the Sioux Falls local office needing additional training to obtain full-time employment. The Sioux Falls office and the client discussed a possible On-the-Job training (OJT). The client decided to pursue the OJT and applied for the position at

Breyfogle. The Sioux Falls office discussed the possibility of an OJT with Breyfogle who was more than willing to give the client a try because they had previously had good experience with an OJT. At the beginning of the OJT, the client didn't have a driver's license so Breyfogle made accommodations for the client to get to the office. Because Breyfogle gave the client a chance, he has been able to purchase a car, live independently and is successfully employed.

Indian Health Services from Aberdeen was selected as the Outstanding Large Employer. Indian Health Services was nominated by the Aberdeen local office. Indian Health Services has been providing work-based experiences for WIA participants for several years. Several of the supervisors at Indian Health Services will listen closely to the WIA participants and really listen to the local office staff regarding the participant's needs. Indian Health Services looks into a lot of job shadows before they settle the participant into Work Experiences. Since January of 2007, Indian Health Services has provided six Work Experiences and hired one of the participants. They have very high expectations, they enforce their standards, address any employment issues directly with the WIA participant, and encourage their people to advance.

Mitchell Technical Institute was selected as the Outstanding Partner. Mitchell Technical Institute was nominated by Second Chance Alternative High School. Mitchell Technical Institute is a pertinent and necessary partner with Second Chance staff. They often approach Second Chance teachers looking for ways and opportunities for the alternative students to be on their campus and they provide space for a lot of extra activities. Mitchell Technical Institute provides guidance to post-secondary-bound students on financial aid, and provides training for Second Chance staff. The partnership between Mitchell Technical Institute and Second Chance has and continues to have a positive impact on the Mitchell community.

Rita Manley, Black Hills Education Connection, was selected as the Outstanding WIA Professional Staff Person. Rita was nominated by Black Hills Education Connection and the Spearfish local office. Rita makes a difference in the lives of the WIA youth and all youth attending the alternative school. She believes in career assessments and tailors every career activity to the individual needs of the youth. She doesn't let anything stand in the way. If she has a youth interested in a career activity, she will find some related experience for the youth.

#### **AGENDA ITEM D4 ANNUAL REPORT**

Kathy Evans, DOL Program Specialist, provided a handout on the PY2007 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) performance measures submitted with the Annual Report. DOL met or exceeded all performance measures in PY2007. A state must be within 80 percent of the negotiated performance goal. Kathy addressed how state staff will be providing technical assistance for older-youth enter-employment rate and credentials for adult, dislocated workers, and older youth. These were the only measures which did not exceed the negotiated performance level.

## **AGENDA ITEM D5 Regional Innovation Grant (RIG)**

Bill McEntaffer, DOL Program Specialist, provided information on two innovation grants DOL is submitting applications for. The two innovation grants, worth \$250,000, will provide funding to assist dislocated workers find employment before actual unemployment takes place, or find employment soon after the dislocation. One grant will cover the eastern third of South Dakota. The second grant will cover the Black Hills area of South Dakota.

## **AGENDA ITEM E ADJOURNMENT**

The next WDC meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2009.

Larry Tolzin moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. CDT. The motion was seconded by Wally Myers. **Motion passed.**