



MWCA 2006 Best Practices Recognition

OVERVIEW

One of MWCA's Goals for 2006 was to encourage and share best practices among members.

In addition to setting aside time to share ideas and discuss innovative initiatives at the Annual Meeting in Duluth, MWCA will honor up to three Workforce Investment Boards whose innovative efforts and collaboration had a positive impact in their Workforce Service Area. These awards will recognize efforts to think innovatively, leverage resources, and benefit both jobseekers and the greater community.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

MWCA encourages each WIB to submit at least one nomination.

Please complete the attached nomination form, and no more than two pages describing the initiative. Include a discussion of how the Board's efforts support MWCA's goals of ensuring that both employers and workers have the resources and skills Minnesota needs to remain competitive.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will be selected and announced shortly. Judges will evaluate each nomination and award points based solely on the information you provide in the nomination information. The categories and possible points are:

Criteria for Selection of Outstanding Best Practices	Maximum Points
Overview describing the innovative best practice	25
Jobseeker impact (ie: benefits, outcomes for jobseekers)	25
Community impact (ie: benefits, outcomes for non-jobseekers)	20
Identification of those involved, including collaborators	15
Leveraging/alignment of outside resources	10
Ability for use or replication by others	05

DEADLINE: *Please submit nominations by close of business Thursday, July 27, 2006.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Trish Taylor phone: (612) 770-8934 e-mail: ttaylor818@yahoo.com

Anne Olson phone: (651) 224-3344 e-mail: aolson@mncounites.org



MWCA 2006 BEST PRACTICES RECOGNITION NOMINATION FORM

WIB Name/WSA _____ Northwest _____

Submitted by _____ Rodger L. Coauette _____

Attach a description (no more than two pages) describing the initiative.

Please return via e-mail or fax to Anne Olson by **Thursday, July 27.**
aolson@mncounties.org or (651) 224-6540

(Leave this section blank -to be completed by judges)

Judge # _____

Criteria for Selection of Outstanding Best Practices	Maximum Points	Points Awarded
Overview describing the innovative best practice	25	
Jobseeker impact (ie: benefits, outcomes for jobseekers)	25	
Community impact (ie: benefits, outcomes for non-jobseekers)	20	
Identification of those involved, including collaborators	15	
Leveraging/alignment of outside resources	10	
Ability for use or replication by others	05	
TOTAL:	100	

The Northwest Workforce Service Area would like to nominate the Math Works! collaborative for best practices recognition.

Math Works! was developed through an unique collaboration that involved close to 30 partners including staff from two Workforce Service Areas, DEED staff, Post-Secondary Institutions, high schools, Adult Basic Education (ABE), Tech Prep Coordinators and private sector employers. While many of the partners had some involvement with each other, none of the partners had previously worked with such a diverse and large collaborative prior to this. Through a series of meetings, the group decided to support contextual math instruction as it relates to high-demand/high-growth jobs within Regions 1 and 2 as identified by Regional Labor Market Information. The collaborative chose to concentrate on health care, manufacturing and the construction trades. Once the grant was awarded with the Northwest WSA the administrative entity, the partners selected an Executive Committee from among the partners to provide oversight of the Math Works! grant. The Executive Committee includes representatives from ABE, Secondary Education, Post-Secondary Education, Tech Prep Coordinators, teachers, WIBs and the private sector. The Executive Committee has worked together to create job descriptions, interview a program coordinator, recruit teachers and private sector members to develop the contextual math modules.

Math Works! has two distinct goals. One is to develop an alternative math learning method for students and workers who do not succeed in traditional, text book delivery. The other is to use mathematics to expose students to math in high demand jobs. Through the development of flexible contextual math learning modules, that meet Minnesota secondary standards and industry needs, secondary students, post secondary students, ABE learners, current workers and other adult learners will be given the opportunity to improve their math skills. It is hoped that this project will prepare jobseekers and incumbent workers with better understanding of the math skills that are necessary to perform their job duties. Employers can benefit by having employees who need less training on the job and who are more efficient and effective in the performance of their assigned duties.

Three, three-person, teams representing health care, manufacturing and construction trades were established. Each team has one private sector industry expert and other team members are from ABE, secondary and post-secondary education. Each team will develop contextual math modules to present to 40 to 50 math teachers in August. Industry relevant experiences are being used to simulate or create the modules. The math modules will be utilized in the area high schools, through ABE programs and through Teamworks to deliver units to industry during the next year. The contextual math modules, once developed, can be utilized by or replicated by other interested parties.