(Workforce Notes from the Field is intended to inform members, partners, and policy makers about what is happening with Minnesota’s local workforce boards and service providers. If you would like to be added or removed from this email, or to provide content, please contact akilzer@mncounties.org)

**Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs**  
(Counties Served: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin)

**Rural Minnesota at Work!** Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP) has been involved in sector work since 2007 when the agency focused on identified key industry clusters through its Framework for Integrated Strategies (FIRST) Grant. Building on this work, RMCEP is currently utilizing its Adult Competitive Grant to train low-income and long-term unemployed individuals for jobs in the manufacturing and wholesale trade and trucking sectors. Skills training is provided through classroom training, paid internships and on-the-job training.

**Duluth Workforce Development**

Construction Industry Day at Duluth WFC was held on March 31. Reps of several apprenticeship programs and Lake Superior College were there to answer questions and take applications.

CEOs in the Classroom brings business speakers to 8th grade classrooms. Duluth WF Council and Chamber of Commerce partner with our youth programs to deliver.

**Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Services (CMJTS)**  
(Counties Served: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, Mille Lacs, Pine, Renville, Sherburne, and Wright)

CMJTS received funding from Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) to recruit, hire, and train up to 40 new employees for a local food production company. CMJTS was contacted by the city administrator on behalf of the company, which is expanding a production line and adding a new one. CMJTS and MJSP responded to the training need. To date, CMJTS has held group intakes on site and implemented 13 on-the-job-training contracts. CMJTS' primary focus is recruiting the long-term unemployed for these positions. “We are pleased to assist this business with their hiring needs in a customer-friendly, efficient way,” said Barbara Chaffee, CEO of CMJTS.

For more information, contact Tim Zipoy, Workforce Development Advisor, at tzipoy@cmjts.org.

**Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council**  
(Counties Served: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine)
FastTRAC career pathway training in SW Minnesota is beginning to impact mainstream classes – as a result of concurrent Nursing Assistant classes being taught by the same MN West CTC instructor (one group had completed the FastTRAC Bridge course; the other had not). The instructor saw that the FastTRAC group was doing better in the classes, and inquired why the mainstream students could not access the same support as the FastTRAC group, to help them succeed. MN West CTC is now considering asking their mainstream Nursing Assistant applicants to take the CASAS assessment to determine if their literacy level is high enough to pass the CNA test as a starting step. They will pilot this at their next Nursing Assistant class, as well as share with the students some of the distance learning options used in the Bridge classes, such as Learner Web-Pre CNA, Skills Tutor for reading and math, and Northstar Digital Literacy assessment.

For additional information contact: Carol Dombe: CDombek@swmnpic.org or 320-269-5561

**City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program**

The City of Minneapolis Employment and Training will be hosting two job fairs in April.

The first is a RENEW Minneapolis Hiring & Resource Event, held on Wednesday, April 2 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454. Renew Minneapolis is a program of the City of Minneapolis Employment and Training that prepares Minneapolis jobseekers for in-demand careers by aligning training and employment services with sustainable economic development. Visit [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/RENEW](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/RENEW) for additional program information and a complete listing of event exhibitors or email Pat Behrend at pat.behrend@minneapolismn.gov for more information.

The second job fair is the 7th annual Teen Job Fair, held on Saturday, April 26 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. The event is designed to connect Twin Cities youth with job and employment training information. For more info visit the [Teen Job Fair website](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/RENEW).

**Dakota-Scott Workforce Services**

The annual Get Jobs Job Fair in Egan was Thursday, March 27th. The event drew 1,500 and featured more than 108 booths. Additionally, there were 16 more exhibitors on the waiting list.

This year’s event featured numerous “Prepare for the Fair” workshops. During the job fair there were three speakers presenting workshops on topics relevant to both job search and job fairs. Stevie Ray provided an opening presentation at the job fair at 9:30 a.m designed to motivate job seekers and have better interactions with the employers when they go down to meet with them. Sean Fetterman and the Talent Acquisition
team at Andersen Windows presented a workshop on getting jobs, and Tom Colosimo of the University of Saint Thomas led a presentation on Winning Interviews.

Kudos to Mike Lang for once again leading the team on developing the job fair.

**Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council**

Do you know how to access a post-secondary intern?

SBETC is hosting a workshop, open to the public, to help community employers and organizations learn how to tap into the extraordinary talent available through St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, St. John's University, College of St. Benedict, Rasmussen College, and the Minnesota School of Business.

On Friday, 4 April 2014, representatives from these post-secondary training partners will help us to understand:

- Criteria for an excellent internship experience for the student;
- What they look for when placing student interns;
- Types of internships most valued or sought after;
- How businesses and organizations secure student interns through them (contact information, procedures, paperwork);
- Expectations of the business or organization hosting a student intern; and
- The role of the college in securing internships and student follow-up.

To attend, please contact Kathy Zavala at 320.308.5702 or kzavala@sbetc.org