

**Workforce Innovation Grants
For the December 11, 2007 CWI Meeting**

Distance Learning Project: \$100,000

Granted to the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin

The project enabled the WDB put the infrastructure in place to data cast and provide interactive video conferencing to all job centers within the WDA.

Having data cast facilities has allowed South Central to provide consistent curriculum to job seekers in all of their locations. So far, they are providing curriculum on Resume' Development, Budgeting and are working on the "Foundations of Health Care Careers."

Video Conferencing has enabled the Board to provide training to all of the WDA by using Video Classrooms in the centers. This allows students to take the classroom portion of their course of study in their community eliminating the need to come to Madison for the entire course. The hands on portion is still done centrally. This reduces travel and other support costs to the program.

The project has also lead to expanded cooperation with W-2 agencies and school districts through out the WDA. Discussion of shared curriculum and facilities use are in the works.

It is possible that the training provided will be recorded and available through a catalogue to be viewed on demand. If converted to a podcast, the courses could be provided through the Internet, possibly through the Virtual Job Center.

Virtual Job Center: \$100,000

Granted to the consortium of the:
Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

The CWI funded this project to develop an electronic service delivery system that is responsive to customer needs, especially in rural areas. The project began as a consortium of three WDBs but has been expanded to include the Bay Area Workforce Development Area. The Virtual Job Center (VJC) is being used effectively as a customer portal to workforce development systems in the four WDAs. The addition of the Call Center Anywhere has enabled customers to have easy voice access to workforce services. The consortium has discussed expanding access to VJC into other WDAs and is now supporting itself through membership fees.

The vision for future development includes the addition of online training and better integration with the state's tracking system.

You can see the Virtual Job Center see on the Web at: <http://www.jobcenter.org>.

Advanced Manufacturing Efficiency and Productivity Improvement Project \$100,000
Granted to the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce in the Southeast Workforce Area

This project, also known as the CNC Boot Camp is an example of a demand driven workforce program. Together the job centers in the Southeast WDA, Gateway Technical College and employers moved job seekers through a 14 week 8 hour per day, 5 days per week intensive training program and into employment.

Eighty-seven percent of those starting the training completed the program (62 of 71). Ninety-four percent (58) of the program completers obtained employment; 53 of those in the occupation in which they were trained.

The excellent success of the project is attributable to intensive staff involvement with the trainees and a program design that mirrors the job conditions.