



# City of Minneapolis Employment & Training Monthly Update – November, 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21, 2014  
Minneapolis  
Workforce Council  
Meeting  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
Location: TBD

January 28, 2014  
Minneapolis Youth  
Council Meeting  
8:30-10:00 a.m.  
Location: TBD

## WHAT'S NEW?

Find 2014 STEP-UP  
applications @  
[minneapolismn.gov  
/lcped/metp/  
lcped\\_stepup](http://minneapolismn.gov/lcped/metp/lcped_stepup)  
starting  
Dec. 16.  
The application  
deadline will be  
Feb. 21.

DEED's web address  
has changed.  
It is now  
[mn.gov/deed/](http://mn.gov/deed/).  
The old address,  
[Positively  
Minnesota.com](http://PositivelyMinnesota.com), will  
redirect customers  
to the new page.

Read DEED's  
Annual  
[WIA Report](#).  
See WSA 10  
highlights on  
pages 26 & 58.

## Minneapolis Students Explore Precision Manufacturing



In an effort to stimulate students' interest in careers in the high demand precision manufacturing sector, Minneapolis Employment & Training partnered with Dunwoody College of Technology, Permac Industries and PYC Arts & Technology High School in north Minneapolis to offer career exploration in manufacturing.

On November 4, PYC students learned what manufacturing looks like today, what career opportunities are available in the industry and how to get the training needed to enter the field.

At Dunwoody Academy, the students heard about [Right Skills Now](#), a 24 week program offered at Dunwoody and Saint Paul College that includes classes, hands-on lab work and a 6-week paid internship to become a CNC (computer numerical controlled) machine operator. Graduates are virtually assured a job in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area at a starting wage of about \$18 an hour.

The students visited Permac Industries where they learned, firsthand, how manufacturing professionals perform their jobs. Permac is a custom manufacturer of parts for customers in industries including aerospace, defense, medical, transportation and food and beverage.

In 2011, Permac Industries' CEO, Darlene Miller, promoted the idea for the "Right Skills Now" program when she was unable to find CNC operators. Miller, a member of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, approached the Manufacturing Institute, the industry's workforce training arm, and the two groups developed the fast-track program.

## STEP-UP Receives Donation in Honor of Mayor Rybak

At a recent luncheon recognizing Mayor R.T. Rybak's tenure as Mayor of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce presented a \$4,500 check to the STEP-UP youth employment program. The mayor had asked that a portion of the proceeds from the luncheon be donated to STEP-UP. Rybak has championed STEP-UP throughout his term and will continue to support the program in his upcoming role as Executive Director of Generation Next. The goal of Generation Next is to reduce the achievement gap between white students and students of color in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

## Caught in a Revolving Door of Unemployment

According to the New York Times, economists are concerned that joblessness lasting more than six months is a major factor preventing people from getting rehired, with grave consequences for tens of millions of Americans. In any given month, a newly jobless worker has about a 20 to 30 percent chance of finding a new job. By the time he or she has been out of work for six months, the chance drops to one in 10, according to research by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Read the whole article [here](#).

## Charting the Future for a Prosperous Minnesota

The Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities voted to adopt a set of six recommendations that call for the 31 colleges and universities to significantly increase collaboration to improve access, increase affordability and better serve students.

“Changes in our students, changes in technology, and changes in the nature of work are all having a dramatic impact on how we educate our

workforce”, said Trustee Margaret Anderson Kelliher, president and CEO of the Minnesota High Tech Association. “These recommendations present a vision for the future that will allow Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to thrive in this complex environment and continue driving Minnesota’s long-term economic vitality.”

The six recommendations are detailed in a white paper available [here](#).

## Minnesota Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.8 Percent

The Minnesota unemployment rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 4.8 percent in October, the same rate as when the recession started in December 2007, according to figures released by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

The U.S. jobless rate for October was 7.3 percent.

Employers cut 8,700 jobs in September and added 9,900 jobs in October for a net gain of 1,200 jobs over the two-month period. The state has added nearly 50,000 jobs over the past year.

In reporting the numbers, DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said, “Not only does the state have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, but we’re also adding jobs — an indicator of a growing economy on the right track.”

The sector with the most job growth over the two months was education and health services, with 6,700 jobs added.

Job gains in the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA were up 2.4 percent in the past 12 months.

## Manufacturers Aim to Close the Skills Gap with NIMS Training

On October 29 and October 30, the National Institute of Metal Working Skills’ (NIMS) Director of Credentialing, Montez King, visited the Twin Cities Metro Area to present two information sessions on a new on-the-job (OTJ) training incentive program focused on closing the manufacturing workforce skills gap. The sessions were hosted by the Metro Manufacturing Alliance at Saint Paul College and Hennepin Technical College.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education and Economic Development (DEED), one in nine jobs in Minnesota is currently in the manufacturing industry. Many manufacturers, however, are finding skilled production workers in short supply, making their ability to expand operations, drive innovation, and improve productivity increasingly challenging.

The NIMS incentive program provides employers with a competency-based training, tracking, and reporting system. Employers who sign-up to participate in the NIMS OJT training will be able to customize a program that fits their specific training needs including selecting the timeline in which to complete the training, focusing on their own equipment and processes.

The program offers extra incentives to employers who commit to hiring new employees who have been unemployed or underemployed for at least 27 weeks. Incentives include a \$4.00/hour wage subsidy for up to 520 hours (\$2,080) of work and free NIMS certified OJT trainer instruction. The overall program is available through December 31, 2015.

For more information, contact Marie Larson at 612.673.5292.

For more information on Minneapolis Employment & Training services, contact: Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director, 612-673-6226  
[minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp/](http://minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp/)