

## Keynotes for Economic Opportunity June 2009



**INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION**

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### Workshops & Conferences

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#### **Minnesota Unemployment Insurance (UI) Overview**

*Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> (Perham), 12:00PM- 3:30PM includes lunch*

*Arvig Communication Systems, Don Swenson Room, 150 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW, Perham*

*Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Staples) 8:00AM - 12:00PM includes breakfast*

*Central Lakes College, Staples Campus, Room C168, 1830 Airport Road, Staples*

Presented by the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) this half a day workshop will discuss a broad range of Unemployment Insurance topics. Topics include:

- New UI legislation & how it could affect your workplace
- Unemployment benefits eligibility (quits, discharges, misconduct)
- Important follow-up you must do after dismissing a problem worker
- Filing an appeal or raising an issue
- Common mistakes made and how to avoid them
- "Partial UI" – MN Shared Work Program
- Temporary and Permanent Layoffs
- Employer Online Self-Service System (with a focus on online benefits functionality)
- Covered vs. non-covered employment (owners, independent contractors, family, etc.)
- Tax rates and experience rating
- Taxable wages
- Submitting quarterly wage detail reports
- Reporting unemployment fraud

Cost is \$10, registration and payment is due by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

For more information and to register contact the following Business Services Specialists:

Steve Retzer – 218-846-7379, [steve.retzer@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.retzer@state.mn.us)

Joan DuMont – 218-631-7670, [joan.dumont@state.mn.us](mailto:joan.dumont@state.mn.us)

Cindy Brey – 218-825-6783, [cindy.brey@state.mn.us](mailto:cindy.brey@state.mn.us).

#### **Anishinabeg Nation Building Conference**

*July 7-9, 2009*

*Northern Lights Casino, Walker*

Chairmen, Council Members, Elders and Anishinabe people are invited to attend this three-day conference in Walker. Arthur LaRose, Chairman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was recently quoted as saying, "This conference is an important step that will benefit all of our Tribes and our people." Chairman LaRose had the opportunity to attend the Native Nation Building conference in Tucson last November and was deeply impressed with the ideas, models and opportunities that

successful Tribes have achieved by pursuing a development approach rooted in the principles of "nation building".

A number of presenters from the Native Nations Institute, First Nations Development Institute, Emerging Indigenous Leaders Institute, and Indian Nations Conservation Alliance have been invited to not only share their expertise and experience but to be available to discuss the "nuts and bolts" of achieving nation building strategies.

Chairman LaRose went on to say, "The conference has been designed to allow us to have both Tribal and regional discussions on the critical issues that we face and are working to resolve. I believe this is an important opportunity for us as leaders and as Tribes to continue to build upon the strengths we have brought together through our Economic Development Summits and the convening of the Northern Minnesota Tribal Economic Development Commission."

For more information and/or to register [download the registration packet](#) or contact Tara Brown at 218.335.3667 or Mike Myers at 218.335-3799.

### **Building Excellence through Strategic Thinking **Breakfast With the B.E.S.T.****

*Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*Registration 7:00AM - 7:30AM and Breakfast 7:30AM - 8:30AM*

*Minnesota WorkForce Center: St. Cloud Technical College, St. Cloud*

Breakfast With the B.E.S.T. is a monthly training series presented by Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council in partnership with Stearns-Benton Workforce Council. This month's topic is Job Analysis, presented by Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Cost is \$25 per session.

Register by calling Rosie Beager at 320.308.5701 or email at [admissions@workforceu.com](mailto:admissions@workforceu.com).

Further Information can be found at: [http://www.workforceu.com/pdfs/breakfast\\_with\\_the\\_best.pdf](http://www.workforceu.com/pdfs/breakfast_with_the_best.pdf).

### **Survive and Thrive: Seizing Opportunities in a Tough Economy**

*Wednesday, July 15*

*The Inn on Lake Superior, Duluth*

This conference is hosted by the Forest Products Society and co-sponsored by the Arrowhead Manufacturers and Fabricators Association, the Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association, Minnesota Power, Blandin Foundation and the Natural Resources Research Institute. The agenda for the meeting features a number of excellent speakers, well worth the registration fee. Please review the attached materials for detailed information on speakers, presentations and a special industry tour.

#### *Registration Fees*

\$25	New Forest Products Society Members
\$45	Current FPS members
\$45	AMFA or CMMA members
\$85	Non FPS, AMFA or CMMA members

For more information [download the brochure](#), contact Brian Brashaw, Director, Wood Materials and Manufacturing Program, University of Minnesota Duluth, 218-720-4248, [bbrashaw@nrri.umn.edu](mailto:bbrashaw@nrri.umn.edu) or [register online](#).

## **Upper Midwest Basic Economic Development Course**

*July 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*Labovitz School of Business and Economics, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN*

The Upper Midwest Economic Development Course is a comprehensive educational experience on the theory and practice of economic development fundamentals and is accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The Basic Economic Development Course is designed for persons in positions related to economic development, including: economic development professionals, public officials or staff engaged in economic development and members of local development organizations.

The Basic Economic Development Course covers:

- Business Retention and Expansion
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing/Attraction
- Economic Development Finance
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development
- Community/Neighborhood Development
- Real Estate Development and Reuse
- Workforce Development
- Managing Economic Development Organizations

Cost of the course is \$600 per participant, scholarships are available.

For more information visit: <http://www.umdced.com/bedc/>

## **Foundations Forums: Foundations of Strategy**

*September 14-16, 2009*

*Anderson Center*

The Foundations Forums provide business professionals with an in-depth understanding of the functional building blocks used to build a successful organization. The Foundations Forums are natural extensions to the Managers' Forum.

The Foundations of Strategy Forum prepares organizations to build and sustain competitive advantages. In this forum participants will:

- Examine the concept of strategy as an integrated set of activities that position a firm within an industry for superior returns.
- Evaluate factors that influence their company's ability to sustain competitive advantage.
- Assess the structural attractiveness of their industry; identify both the threats and the enablers that impact profitability.
- Determine the competitive environment as well as their organization's strengths and weaknesses.
- Learn the tools to develop a consistent and workable business strategy for their company.
- Understand how their value proposition is a key component of strategy, including value creation, value desired and value captured

For further information and program cost visit: [http://www.acmbd.org/foundation\\_series.htm](http://www.acmbd.org/foundation_series.htm).

## **Emerging Companies Forum**

2010

*Anderson Center*

The Anderson Center is now accepting applications for the Emerging Companies Forum. This forum is designed to help emerging companies better position themselves for the future. The Emerging Companies Forum is targeted towards Entrepreneurs, Business Owners, General Managers, or Executive teams who are interested in surrounding themselves with an Advisory Board of experienced individuals. Program objectives include:

- Provide access to a group of experienced individuals who are interested and willing to share their advice and experiences in a formal setting.
- Provide candid feedback that challenges the business owner's assumptions, with a goal of helping the owner improve business planning and execution.
- Provide an informal mentoring relationship that extends beyond the Forum to help the business owner facilitate future growth.

For more information visit: [http://www.acmbd.org/emerging\\_companies.htm](http://www.acmbd.org/emerging_companies.htm).

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## **Resources**

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### **Minnesota Home Ownership Center**

The Minnesota Home Ownership Center is an independent, non-profit provider of information and resources aimed at helping Minnesotans with home ownership. While its services are open to anyone, the Center places an emphasis on supporting low- and moderate-income Minnesotans and those who often face barriers to home ownership.

Since 1993 the Minnesota Home Ownership Center has worked to achieve its mission by empowering a network of more than 50 non-profit, public and tribal organizations to provide education and counseling services to potential home buyer and home owners working to sustain their mortgage. Through its efforts and partnerships, the Center has helped over 100,000 Minnesotans begin and sustain successful home ownership.

For more information visit: <http://www.hocmn.org/>.

### **Small Towns, Big Ideas**

The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has just released a new publication, "Small Towns, Big Ideas: Case Studies in Small Town Community Economic Development" online at <http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/cednc/stbi/>. The website includes a searchable database of case studies on small town community and economic development. This is a valuable resource for small town leaders across the country.

### **Further Resources**

Further resources can be found at the Initiative Foundation Website (<https://www.ifound.org>) by clicking on "Businesses" and then clicking on the tab under this category called "Additional Resources", or by following this link: [http://www.ifound.org/business\\_resources.php](http://www.ifound.org/business_resources.php).

## **A Small Business Resource Guide**

This guide is available in the Spring 2007 issue of IQ magazine. This can be found at <http://www.igmag.org>. From the drop down menu "browse an issue" select the "You, Incorporated" issue. The Resource Guide is on page 32-34.

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*This newsletter is designed to share resources and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other economic development opportunities, contact [Randy Olson](#), Vice President for Economic Opportunity.*

*If you wish to be removed, update your email address or change your subscription preferences please contact Sharon at [sgottwalt@ifound.org](mailto:sgottwalt@ifound.org).*