

Ozaukee County Economic Development Corporation

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of the non-profit development corporation is to promote, assist, encourage, develop, and advance business, prosperity, and the economy of Ozaukee County.

During calendar year 2003, our organization was involved in the following activities:

Entrepreneurial Training: OCEDC, in cooperation with UW-Extension, has developed and implemented an entrepreneurial training program, entitled Fast Trac, in which participants develop business plans for current or proposed businesses.

25 business plans completed in the first year of this program!

"The program really gave us an eye-opening look at what was expected, as well as what we needed to know in order to start a new business." –2003 Fast Trac Graduate

Industry Cluster Initiative: Joined a tri-county initiative with Washington and Dodge Counties in order to facilitate a process that will increase the productivity with which companies can compete in an increasingly more competitive global market. This industry lead initiative is a partnership of key private industry stakeholders, government and educational institutions. Advanced Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Health Service Clusters were formed in 2003.

Workforce 2010: A consortium of education, business, community and government representatives pursuing future employment needs in the county.

School-To-Work apprenticeship programs - students receive paid work experience and guided learning opportunities in *computer information technology, manufacturing, financial services, health, automotive, and engineering* industries.

Since 1994, there have been 149 graduates of the program.

Currently, there are 43 youth apprenticeships; two are employed by Ozaukee County at the Ozaukee County Administration Center.

Regional Economic Partnership: A consortium of seven southeastern Wisconsin counties, the We Energies, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the City of Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area of Commerce working together on common economic development issues.

Received \$10 million in tax credits for Southeastern Wisconsin as part of the Technology Zone Program

Co-sponsored workshop "The Race for Talent: Can Wisconsin Place"

Provided funding for a new regional Internet site for Milwaukee
(www.metromilwaukee.org)

Conducted a survey that identified 575 Information Technology & Bioscience companies
in Southeastern Wisconsin

Clearinghouse: Through the UWEX office, the corporation serves as a countywide
clearinghouse for economic development information and resources.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Larson, President

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