



# GWDC

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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## **Governor's Workforce Development Council Chair's Report March - May 2008**

The GWDC Generating Leaders in Disability Employment (GLIDE) Mentoring project kicked off April 7 at the Best Buy Corporate Headquarters in Richfield with an orientation dinner for the mentors and mentees. The GLIDE Program features 19 mentorship pairs, including 5 GWDC members: Steve Ditschler, Sharon Bredeson, Twyla Flaws, Brenda Johnson, Jeff Johnson and staff Brenda Norman. College students from MnSCU colleges and the University of Minnesota are participating. The Mentors and mentees meet regularly on schedules determined by each pair through November 2008. Each mentor and mentee was loaned a webcam for videoconference with each other so that distance would not be a deterrent from participating. The GLIDE Mentoring Pilot aims to open doors for college students with disabilities by facilitating professional career mentoring relationships with Council and committee members of the Governor's Workforce Development Council. The GLIDE Mentoring Pilot is designed to: (1) Assist students with disabilities connect with mentors from the GWDC and other Minnesota state agencies; (2) Demonstrate a method how Minnesota can be a model employer for people with disabilities by supporting transitions with mentoring and internships; and 3) Promote mentoring opportunities in other state agencies.

On April 9, GLIDE also welcomed Alan Muir, Executive Director of Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD). Mr. Muir presented a workshop on "How to disclose your disability to employers" for GLIDE mentees.

GWDC staff participated in the Employment First Coalition which brought together agencies and organizations to discuss systemic and policy changes to support livable wage employment for every person with disabilities.

GWDC member Laura Beeth, along with staff Brenda Norman participated in a data workgroup convened by the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care to identify some specific initiatives for improving or expanding Minnesota health workforce data. Over the course of three meetings, the group has explored answers to the questions of: 1) What kind of data is missing or inadequate? What should we be collecting that we aren't now? 2) What occupations do we need to target for improved workforce data? 3) What specific initiatives would be most beneficial? A summary of the findings is being compiled

GWDC staff Brenda Norman, with Kathy Sweeney, DEED; Pradeep Kotamradju MnSCU; Barry Shaffer, ABE; and Judy Mortrude, St. Paul ABE attended the Shifting Gears Cross State meeting in Chicago. Teams from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were also there to hear from national experts in policy, data and research, and communications to assist state teams in refining their policy agendas and crafting communication strategies. Each state team also had time to develop action plans to implement back home. The implementation proposal was submitted to the Joyce Foundation with the goal to:

Create a state-level "stackable credentials" education and training framework that integrates ABE, non-credit occupational training, and for-credit postsecondary degree and certificate programs.