



This is a printer friendly version from the **Democrat and Chronicle**:

October 24, 2006

Speaker: WIRED funds are boosting job training

Joy Davia
Staff Writer

The Rochester region is in a good position to adapt to the changing nature of the job market, especially given the big pot of federal economic development money the area got earlier this year, said John Twomey, executive director of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals.

Twomey spoke this morning at the Rochester Workforce Investment Board meeting at Mario's Via Abruzzi restaurant in Brighton.

Twomey was referring to the federal money the nine-county area received through the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative. The area — Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Yates and Seneca — was one of 13 areas nationally to be awarded \$15 million in federal WIRED funds.

"You are ahead of the curve," said Twomey, in talking about the difficulty in training workers when in-need jobs keep changing.

None of the top jobs in 2010, for example, exists today, he said, and the average person will have 10 to 14 careers in their lifetime. Also, the average job will last three to five years.

Twomey outlined the six underlying factors affecting the regional, state and national labor market as a way to help local officials prepare for the future. They are: baby boomer retirements; big demographic shifts; increased payoff on educational attainment; global competitors' actions; immigration issues; and the issue of whether off-shoring or technological changes are having the greatest impact on jobs.

Also at the meeting, Matt Hurlbutt — managing director of the Finger Lakes Partnership — said 12 projects have been approved by the governing board of the partnership, charged with implementing WIRED.

The projects range from an entrepreneurs network; programs that accelerate the commercialization of university and orphan technology from local companies; educator internships that place teachers in industry; and the development of a predictive analysis that looks at what companies are in danger of leaving and ways to retain such businesses here.

JDAVIA@DemocratandChronicle.com

[Back](#)