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Finger Lakes Wired brings businesses together

Ana Fernm
Staff writer

(December 16, 2007) — Finger Lakes Wired held a networking event earlier this month at the Doubletree Hotel in Henrietta.

The event: Celebrating two years of work, Finger Lakes Wired held a networking event where members of partnering organizations got the chance to meet and interact.

Finger Lakes Wired, located in Rochester, is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's WIRED Initiative. The organization provides opportunities for companies to increase their workforce and enhance employee talent.

"This is taking a mix from folks working in different sectors of the economy to know each other," said Matthew Hurlbutt, managing director of Finger Lakes Wired.

A presentation was also given to show what the organization has done within the last two years. Hurlbutt said they have worked with more than 24,000 people and 300 businesses in the region.

Kelly Tovar Mullaney, president of Working Art Media in Pittsford, is a board member of the organization. She took the invitation to participate on the board as an opportunity to represent other small-business owners and bring their issues to the table.

"I'm trying to bring the point of views from the small businesses and the women-owned businesses because it can get a bit diluted from the bigger companies," she said.

The crowd: Many partners of Finger Lakes Wired are organizations like Greater Rochester Enterprise, High Tech Rochester and The Entrepreneurs Network, all of which had staff at the event.

Area colleges also play an important part in what Finger Lakes Wired is trying to accomplish. Staff and faculty from a few regional universities were also there.

Christopher Dahl, president of State University College at Geneseo and a board member for Finger Lakes Wired, said the group is trying hard to keep its focus on the nine-county region.

Some of the businesses at the event were from just outside of Rochester in places like Canandaigua and Batavia.

— Ana Fernm

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ANA FERMIN staff photographer
Kelly Tovar Mullaney, left, of Working Arts Media in Pittsford; Rob Newell, of Stone Construction Equipment in Honeoye Falls; and Ed Christopher, also of Stone Construction Equipment, attend the networking event.

Day in Photos



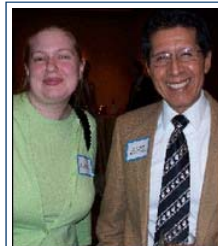
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ANA FERMIN staff photographer
Kamal Sarbadhikari, left, of SensiVida Medical System in Canandaigua; Rand Henke of Lighthouse BioSciences in Henrietta; and C. Michael Haugh of High Tech Rochester in Henrietta meet at the Doubletree Hotel.



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ANA FERMIN staff photographer
Susanne Daly, left, of Teknecoast Corp. in Rochester; Donna Scheid of the Rochester Institute of Technology; and James Flynn of Netsville in Rochester.



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ANA FERMIN staff photographer
Kim Breedlove of RochesterWorks, and Louis Lopez of the New York State Department of Labor office in Rochester, enjoy the celebration.

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