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NEWS

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Finger Lakes WIRED Awards \$145,477 to 14 Companies to Enhance Worker Skills

Total of \$700,000 to be Awarded – More Funds Available – Businesses Urged to Apply

Rochester, NY—December 19, 2006—Finger Lakes WIRED, www.fingerlakeswired.com, has awarded scholarships to 14 area businesses to train workers in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties. These businesses will receive a total of \$145,476.51 to provide a variety of training to 99 workers.

Tariff Affiliates Inc., a professional services provider specializing in telecom and utility invoice management, bill payment and cost reduction services for large, multi-location companies, received one of the larger scholarships of \$14,286.

"This WIRED scholarship will allow us to complete Type I and II SAS-70 training, which is a great benefit to Tariff Affiliates, our employees, and our clients," said CEO Robert Calman, CEO of the Ontario County-based company."

The WIRED grant helps small businesses grow in specific areas such as technology. "This type of business growth usually correlates to job growth - both in number of jobs and the quality of job opportunities," said Deborah C. Kurvach, Tariff Affiliates HR Manager. "Small businesses become more competitive in the marketplace, employees are better trained and have more opportunities, and the community benefits because those dollars stay here supporting our schools, other businesses and services."

Finger Lakes WIRED is charged with supporting economic development and transforming the Finger Lakes region economy by increasing entrepreneurship and innovation, expanding employment, and advancing worker opportunities. It awards grants and funds programs that advance these objectives.

Kurvach said that the WIRED application is relatively simple and straight forward to complete. "We received the approval notice for our application in just a few days. We estimate an return on investment in excess of 200 percent in the first twelve months. The scholarship is helping cut our costs for this important training and we're looking forward to the positive impact completion of the training will have on our business," Kurvach said.

Scholarships Awarded

Monroe County businesses

- Magnus Education LLC, \$13,910
- Micro Systems, Corp, \$7,878
- Reflexite, \$4,900
- SenDEC, \$18,000
- Genesee Group, \$4,648.51
- Riverside Automation, \$12,000
- Amdex Computer, \$12,905

Livingston County businesses

- ARKEMA Inc., \$1,120
- Hurricane Technologies, \$6,189

Ontario County businesses

- Surmotech, Inc., \$6,215
- CTC Online, \$1,600
- Tariff Affiliates, \$14,286

Wayne County businesses

- IEC Electronics, \$3,610

Wyoming County businesses

- Steel & O'Brien, \$38,215

More Funds Are Available

Organizations in qualified industries in the nine-county Finger Lakes region are urged to apply for up to \$50,000 per application for training that leads to the acquisition of industry-recognized certifications/credentials, productivity and process improvement procedures, or in-demand skills.

Finger Lakes WIRED will award a total of \$700,000 to companies in optics and imaging, biotech and life sciences, food and agriculture, advanced manufacturers, alternative energy, information technology, engineering, business services and healthcare.

To apply for funding contact:

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[Finger Lakes WIRED](#) (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) is one of 13 designated WIRED regions in the country funded by the U. S. Department of Labor to support economic development and transform regional economies. Finger Lakes WIRED initiatives focus on a nine-county region (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties) surrounding Rochester N.Y., to increase entrepreneurship and innovation, expand employment, advance opportunities for workers, and enhance the talent of the workforce through the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities.

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