

## NEWS

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### **Finger Lakes Wired Looking to Fund Innovative Approaches to Support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Skills for Middle and High School Students** **Goal is to advance learning through technology and real world application**

Rochester, NY—May 29, 2007-- Finger Lakes Wired will allocate approximately \$200,000 to fund programs with businesses that can enhance study opportunities and career awareness for middle and high school youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

“We are looking for new and innovative applied learning programs with active participation with private businesses to enhance middle and high school students’ curriculum in science, technology, engineering and math,” said Matthew Hurlbutt, Managing Director of Finger Lakes Wired.

“A key deliverable of this initiative,” emphasized Hurlbutt, “is to empower our region’s youth to be able to compete in the changing global economy. That can be accomplished, in part, by our support of educational efforts that stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering and math curriculums both academically and professionally.

### **STEM skill projections for the period 2004 – 2014:**

- Positions requiring STEM skills will grow at a rate of more than 11.4%.
- Positions not requiring STEM skills will grow at a rate of more than 4.5%.
- The average salary for STEM career positions averages \$57,084.
- The average salary for non-STEM positions is \$35,661.

Proposals should indicate how programs will expand recruitment opportunities for young women and minorities. Programs selected for funding will take place from September 1, 2007 thru January 31, 2008. Private businesses should be involved in optics and imaging, biotechnology and life sciences, food and agriculture, alternative energy, precision manufacturing, engineering or information technology.

### **Proposals and Information**

Visit [www.fingerlakeswired.com](http://www.fingerlakeswired.com) for the Request for Proposals and requirements. Proposals are due by 12 p.m. on Friday, June 22, 2007. Questions may be directed to Matthew Hurlbutt, Managing Director, Finger Lakes Wired 585.258.3533.

*Finger Lakes Wired is one of 13 designated WIRED regions in the country funded by the U. S. Department of Labor WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic*

*Development) Initiative to support economic development and transform regional economies. Finger Lakes Wired initiatives focus on a nine-county region 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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