

NEWS

For immediate release

Media Contact

Jean Dalmath
585-586-6650 (Direct)
585-755-6911 (Mobile)
jdalmath@dalmath.com

Finger Lakes Wired to Fund Programs to Give Youth Key Future Employment Skills for 2nd Year

Rochester, NY –December 3, 2008—Finger Lakes Wired (www.fingerlakeswired.com) announced today that it will provide funding for multiple projects that will prepare about 400 economically disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 21, for getting jobs in high-growth industries.

This is the second year Finger Lakes Wired has supported programs. Last year's programs served over 350 area youth.

The purpose of the initiative is to provide future workers with the skills and competencies required for most jobs in high-growth industries. That often requires specific training that can begin in high school. Competencies needed by high-growth industries today and into the future also include basic skills such as the ability to work collaboratively, communicate clearly, and be innovative and creative.

Pat Piles, Finger Lakes Wired Program Manager, said, "We are looking to fund projects that will expose youth to high tech career possibilities in key industry sectors, encourage youth to complete high school and pursue technical training, and provide youth with work experience and industry recognized credentials."

Programs must include technical skills training, utilize business and industry input and reinforce training with career exploration, work experience or actual employment.

The funding is targeted to programs serving youth living in the nine-county Finger Lakes Region (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates counties).

Proposals are due by Monday, January 5, 2009. For-profit and non-profit incorporated organizations, and educational institutions are encouraged to apply.

Evaluation of proposals will be based on several factors including private business engagement, cost, potential for sustainability, how they increase the participation of

women and minorities in high growth industries, how youth eligible for the US Department of Education's free or reduced lunch program are served.

Application and More Information

For an application and detailed information on the types of programs that will be funded, see www.fingerlakeswired.com. For assistance or more information please contact Pat Piles, Program Manager for Finger Lakes Wired at 585.258.3556.

Finger Lakes Wired was created to link the communities of education, workforce development and economic development, creating an entrepreneurial, industry-driven, integrated system. It was one of the first of several regions funded by the U. S. Department of Labor WIRE (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Initiative. The designation has brought millions of dollars to the nine-county area surrounding Rochester (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates), 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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