

NEWS

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Finger Lakes Wired Announces Projects Funded to Connect Business Leaders in the Region and Advance Business Solutions

Rochester, NY—November 30, 2007 –Finger Lakes Wired (www.fingerlakeswired.com) announced today that it has selected programs that will be funded to connect business leaders throughout the nine-county region to increase collaboration and help advance solutions to critical business issues.

Finger Lakes Wired selected the projects based on criteria outlined in a Request for Proposal that was issued in September.

Matthew Hurlbutt, Managing Director said, “We are pleased to be able to support these projects, which will increase information sharing, lead to development of new opportunities and encourage cross-industry learning among business leaders in the region, particularly in target industries where we believe there is great potential for growth.”

The projects to be funded are:

- **The Essential Links – \$20,000**

The goal of the effort is to connect business leaders in the region by creating a collaborative network for the food, beverage and agricultural industries. This initiative will support the growth of entrepreneurial efforts and well as assisting existing businesses with their growth. The Essential Links is supported by the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park in Geneva.

- **Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise - \$11,000**

The Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise is a partnership of manufacturers whose primary goals are to increase development and prosperity of the region by supporting the active networks of business leaders in the region and providing increase information and opportunities for youth on careers in various manufacturing environments. The Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise is supported by the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board.

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Finger Lakes Wired is one of several regions 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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