



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: Jan 7, 2005
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Indiana@Work continues to add companies in Northeastern Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today the Gov. Joe Kernan announced that seven additional Northeastern Indiana businesses have joined the state's innovative new workforce development program, Indiana@Work.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, grants to the following companies were announced:

- Columbia City's **Dana Coupled Products Inc.** will use the \$15,230 from Indiana@Work to assess the skills of up to 300 people. Of this number, up to 150 job applicants will be assessed to potentially fill 50 new job openings and the remaining are incumbent employees. In addition, the company will also profile its supervisor, maintenance technician, set-up, team leader and operator positions at its Whitley County location.
- Located in Huntington, **Homier Distributing Co.** will assess the skills of up to 125 incumbent employees and profile five occupational categories with \$12,700 from Indiana@Work. These positions include tractor assembler, warehouseman, customer service representative, leasing agent and traffic clerk.
- With its \$7,324 from Indiana@Work, Columbia City's **Oak View Tooling Inc.** will assess the skills of up to 15 people so that the company may find qualified candidates for three potential job openings. Any remaining assessments will be used for incumbent employees. Also part of the Whitley County company's request was five job profiles, including tool grinder, shop foreman, office secretary and bookkeeper positions.
- Huntington's **Transmetco Corp.** will utilize its \$7,432 from Indiana@Work to profile four occupational categories, including furnace operator, sorter, material handler and shipping and receiving. The company will also provide skills assessments to up to 20 existing workers.
- Indiana@Work has committed \$10,586 to Huntington's **Transwheel Corp.**, which will be used to assess the skills of up to 85 employees. Additionally, the company will profile its painting, computer numerical control operator, wheel repair and shipping and receiving positions.
- LaOtto's **Wayne Tool and Design** will use \$9,830 from Indiana@Work to provide skills assessments to 50 employees and to profile five occupational categories. Jobs will be profiled in its press department and welding department as well as its set-up, maintenance and quality inspector positions at the DeKalb County facility.

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- With hopes to expand its workforce, Ligonier's **Western Consolidated Technologies Inc.** assess the skills of up to 75 people, 30 of which will be job applicants to potentially fill 10 job openings. The Noble County company will also use the \$10,370 in funding to profile its set up, press operator, machine production operator, computer numerical control operator and cutter operator positions.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 30,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 700 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skills assessments, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job, is the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs, and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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