

**8.E.2 South Central/Southwest WIRED Initiative Update**

The Board heard about the Southwest Central/Southwest Wisconsin (SCSW) Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative at the last meeting. It was noted that WIRED is designed to support the development of a regional, integrated approach to workforce and economic development and education. WIRED stresses the critical role talent development plays in creating effective regional economic development strategies. It goes beyond traditional strategies for worker preparation by bringing together state, local and federal entities; academic institutions (including K-12, community colleges and universities); investment groups; foundations; and business and industry to address the challenges associated with building a globally competitive and prepared workforce.

As noted at the last meeting, the first step in the WIRED Initiative is the identification of a leadership team and development of an implementation plan. This effort began on Thursday, September 27, 2007 with a joint Department of Labor Site Visit/Leadership Team Kickoff meeting held in Madison. The agenda for the meeting is included as **Attachment 1**.

Also included with this agenda item are several items prepared for and presented at the Site Visit meeting including a one-page summary of the SC/SW WIRED Initiative (**Attachment 2**), a list of the leadership team members (**Attachment 3**) and the WIRED Initiative Abstract (**Attachment 4**) are included for review. Amy Charles and Bob Borremans will review the Site Visit meeting and upcoming WIRED Initiative activities. Several Board members participated in the Site Visit meeting and they will be encouraged to share their impressions of the meeting.