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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Workforce Partners Seek to Recognize Southeast Minnesota's Best Places to Work in 2026

(Southeast Minnesota), January 7, 2026 – Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI), in partnership with CareerForce and the Workforce Development Boards of Southeast Minnesota and Winona, announce the launch of the **2026 Best Places to Work in Southeast Minnesota** survey. This annual program recognizes exceptional employers across the region while providing insights into employee engagement, workplace culture, and talent retention.

“Strong workplaces are built with intention,” says Jinny Rietmann, Executive Director with Workforce Development, Inc. “This survey helps employers understand what is working well and where there are opportunities to grow. Employers receive valuable, actionable insights that support continuous improvement and demonstrate a commitment to their workforce.”

Organizations interested in being recognized as one of Southeast Minnesota's Best Places to Work must complete the free, 40-question online survey. Data collection and analysis are conducted by Personnel Dynamics Consulting Group. All participating employers receive a **complimentary**, personalized, and confidential report that includes organization-specific results and best practices in key areas such as benefits, training and development, paid time off, performance management, and more.

Complete the survey here: <http://bestplacestoworksurvey.com/survey.asp>

The survey deadline is **February 6, 2026**. All participants must register as a *New User*, even if they've participated in previous years. Winning organizations will be recognized in small, mid-size, and large categories at the annual Workforce Development Forum on **April 9, 2026**, at the Rochester International Event Center. Honored employers will receive the 2026 Best Places to Work logo to use in marketing and recruitment efforts.

Now in its 16th year, the Best Places to Work Survey is sponsored locally by WDI and the Workforce Development Boards of Southeast Minnesota and Winona. As part of a national initiative to recognize outstanding employers, the program engages businesses across Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Goodhue, Olmsted, Houston, Dodge, Fillmore, Wabasha, and Winona Counties.

For more information or to participate, contact **Kortney Wobbe** at Workforce Development, Inc. by phone at **507-292-5189** or via email at **kwobbe@wdimn.org**.

Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) is an independent, non-profit agency with a long history of serving the needs of career seekers and employers in Southeast Minnesota. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities provided, upon request, by calling 507.292.5152 or by using your preferred relay service. Workforce Development, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Provider and a proud partner of the American Job Center Network.