



WIRED UPDATE May 2008

November 1-2, 2007 – WIRED's 4th All-Region Academy was held in Seattle, WA. This was the first academy that was focused solely on peer-to-peer learning, with nearly all of the sessions led by WIRED regions. Some of the topics were 1) Sharing STEM Strategies, 2) Training New Entrepreneurs, 3) Youth Pipeline and 9-12 Alternatives, 4) The Role of Community Colleges in Economic Development, 5) Data Driven Cluster Development and 6) Universities: Economic Development Partners. One of the highlights of this academy was a presentation by Martin Bean, General Manager of Education Strategies, Products and Solutions, Microsoft Corporation. Mr. Bean talked about globalization and the competition for talent, the importance of education, and the next generation of workers.

December 2007 - The WIRED Nation website was launched. Located at www.wired-nation.net, the site is a web 2.0 platform and provides real time communication and cross-regional collaboration using blogs, wikis, forums, and weekly newsletters. It also contains information and contacts for the WIRED regions, as well as houses all the presentations from WIRED conferences including the BioScience Institute, the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) Institute and WIRED Academies. There are also sub-sites for the three WIRED Communities of Practice: Energy, BiosScience, and TDL.

February 5-6, 2008 – The WIRED BioScience Institute was held in Greensboro, NC and co-hosted by the Piedmont Triad NC WIRED region. The WIRED Institutes are expert-led, in-depth, 1 ½ day sessions that are focused on a targeted industry. More than 110 people from 20 WIRED regions attended this institute. One of the highlights of the BioScience Institute was a presentation by Mr. G. Steven Burrill, CEO, Burrill and Company. Mr. Burrill gave a historical overview of the biotechnology industry and talked about the issues and trends of the industry, the importance of capital, the government/Medicare as a big customer, and integration and competition = co-opetition.

March 18-19, 2008 – The WIRED Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) Institute was held in Memphis, TN and co-hosted by the Arkansas Delta WIRED region. Nearly 80 people from 16 WIRED regions attended this institute. One of the highlights of the institute was a presentation by Dr. John D. "Jack" Kasarda, Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, University of North

Carolina – Chapel Hill. Dr. Kasarda shared his Aerotropolis concept, which parallels itself with the traditional idea of a city metropolis. Much like a metropolis, the Aerotropolis consists of an airport city core and outlying corridors and clusters of businesses. This session demonstrated how airports can act as powerful engines for local economic development, attracting aviation-linked businesses of all types to their environments.

May 1-2, 2008 – The 5th All-Region WIRED Academy was held in Boston, MA. The three main themes for this academy were Sustainability, Education and the Evaluation. ETA leveraged the education, economic and innovation expertise in Boston and was honored to have Stephen Goldsmith of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government keynote the afternoon plenary, as well as be joined by experts from Northeastern University, Mass Insight, Jobs for the Future, and Global Insight. Some of the other topics were 1) Building and Sustaining Regional Leadership, 2) Connecting Low Income and Hard to Serve Talent Pools to Regional Strategies, 3) Developing Regional Performance Metrics, 4) Governance and Social Networking – Models for Moving Forward Post WIRED, and 5) Communications and Outreach Strategies.

July 15-17, 2008 – Workforce Innovations 2008 – SUCCESS DECODED – in New Orleans, LA. For more information, please visit <http://www.workforceinnovations.org/>.

As of March 2008, WIRED regions have leveraged nearly \$600 million in other federal, state, local or private resources.

Planning is underway for a 6th WIRED Academy this fall.

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