



2015 Joint Counselor Training – Save the Date/Call for Proposals

This year's training will take place **June 3-4, 2015** at the **Duluth Entertainment Convention Center**. This collaborative 2-day event will focus on Bridging the Gaps.

As we all know from working in a large and complex workforce development system, so many of us face any one of a number of gaps – whether we are the job seeking customer, the employers who hope to hire, the system partners who need to work together, and of course the counselors themselves who must reach out and pull together all of the information, resources, and support they can to make our system a success. We hope to explore the gaps we all experience – gaps between cultures, or on the way to gainful employment, or while seeking financial stability, or in understanding each other as system partners, or in forming the kinds of fully productive relationships we need to have to do our best work.

We hope you'll join us as we accelerate our work toward closing **all** of the gaps that keep Minnesota from reaching its amazing economic potential!

Important Information:

- There is no fee to attend the conference.
- Hotel room rates average \$109 + tax per night, per attendee
- You will receive registration information in April. Once registration is open, you will receive hotel information and will be able to book your rooms at that time.

We Need Your Help! – [Call For Proposals](#) (Due March 24, 2015)

Concurrent sessions are an important part of this event. The Conference Planning Committee is interested in presentations that respond to the needs of attendees and their participants, highlighting areas that will help them continue on a path of success. The committee is seeking proposals for presentations in the following areas:

1. Bridging The Gap: Between Cultures

Different populations within Minnesota are having different experiences with Minnesota's economic recovery, and also sometimes struggle with the programs designed to employ them in good jobs.

2. Bridging The Gap: To Employment

Job seekers often face what seems like an insurmountable chasm between where they are and their next job. At the same time, employers claim shortages of skilled, job-ready workers in certain industries and geographic areas.

3. Bridging The Gap: To Financial Stability

Many job seekers face everyday economic issues that limit their ability to achieve full-time, high-wage employment: persistent poverty, low education, homelessness, financial illiteracy, or a lack of good transportation options to get to key services.

4. **Bridging The Gap: To Greater Understanding**

As professionals in a large and complex workforce development system, we often find it's impossible to keep up with the waves of new knowledge that would make our jobs easier and more effective. How can we best get critical policy information from one partner to the next? How can real, practical knowledge in the field translate into better policy? What resources are available for our shared customers? What is the best way to share what is happening to a single customer, or a population of our customers, or an entire program?

5. **Bridging The Gap: To Better Relationships**

In any complex system, communication breakdowns are inevitable. This strand will explore how we can improve the lines of communication between different partners – program to program, state to local (and back to state), one line staff to another.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

To submit a proposal, complete [the attached form](#) and submit via email to Lynn.Dahn@state.mn.us. You will receive a confirmation email letting you know your submission has been received. ***The deadline to submit a proposal is March 24, 2015.***