

## 2016 Joint Counselor Training

### Save the Date/Call for Exhibitors

This year's training will take place on May 17-18, 2016 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. This collaborative 2-day event will focus on Building Bright Futures - Opportunities for All.

#### **Important Information:**

- [Registration information](#) will be coming soon.

#### **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

DEED and DHS are joining forces again to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Counselor Training. This collaborative two-day event will focus on Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All. Minnesota has been making a strong recovery from the economic downturn that hit the whole country – and our overall unemployment rate is well below the national average. But not everyone has been able to take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Meanwhile, employers are looking at tighter labor markets and are having difficulty finding workers with the skills they need. As professionals in the workforce development system, we are uniquely positioned to help job seekers develop the financial stability and skills they need for today's workplace – and to help employers connect with workplace-ready job seekers. This conference will assist us in developing our skills and managing stress, sharing best practices, building relationships and promoting system and policy changes that make a difference. We hope you'll join us as we work to ensure that all Minnesotans are able to take advantage of economic opportunities and build a bright future for themselves and their families.

This year's conference, May 17-18, 2016, will bring together approximately 600 professionals from the following professional areas: job seeker counselors, staff who work with Minnesotans from across the state who receive public assistance, WorkForce Center and service provider staff, Veteran representatives and leadership. We're looking to you – the experts in the field and in the offices – to bring hands-on,

interactive breakout sessions to us for consideration and to help us develop and deliver an engaging agenda for all attendees.

### **1. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: Serving Diverse Customers**

Labor market information (LMI) and the stories we share as professionals tell us Minnesota is becoming more diverse. In this track, we will look at pockets of diversity in our state, effective techniques for serving diverse customers and ways to develop cultural awareness.

**Examples:** LMI Regional Stats, Cultural Awareness, Diversity.

### **2. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: Financial Success/Financial Literacy**

Financial illiteracy is one barrier many job seekers face on the path toward achieving a full-time job with livable wages. This track will identify programs and resources that help customers become more economically self-sufficient and tips for helping them navigate the costs of housing, child care, transportation and necessities of life.

**Examples:** MFIP, DWP, SNAP

### **3. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: Case Management**

Mandates to deliver program data and performance-related measures have never been greater – and technology has been one driver. This track explores best practices in gathering, reporting, tracking and maintaining the numbers and how changes in policy affect case management practices.

**Examples:** Best Practices, Performance Indicators, Accountability, Policy Change

### **4. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: Relationship**

**Building/Partnering with Agencies** Relationships between and among state agencies, nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) often begin incrementally with a single event or initiative and, over time, evolve into flourishing partnerships. We want to hear your success stories.

**Examples:** Communication/Diversity, State Agencies, Role of CBOs, Co-enrollment, “Have you experienced success in this? Are you willing to share?”

### **5. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: System Changes/Policy**

**Changes** How might the state’s workforce development system, policies and programs change – especially given a growing number of legislators who have chosen not to seek re-election and a downturn in the state’s budget surplus? What changes in the workforce development system and policy would make the most difference for the people we serve?

**Examples:** Legislative Updates, WFC System, WIOA Statewide Plan, Unified Report Card

## 6. Building Bright Futures – Opportunities for All: Professional Development

Do you fight the tiger or run from it? No one, male or female, is immune, and the signs of stress – heart palpitations, changes in breathing, perspiring – are well known. In this track, you'll learn how to take care of yourself and to lessen the impact before one more situation or person pushes your buttons.

**Examples:** Self-care, Stress Management



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Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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