



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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For Immediate Release: Jan. 6, 2005  
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### ***Indiana@Work initiative growing in Northern Indiana***

*Five Indiana companies implementing state workforce development program*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that five northern Indiana companies have joined Indiana@Work, Indiana's innovative workforce development program.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the following companies received assistance:

- **Alpha Systems, Inc.**, located in Elkhart, received \$10,665 grant to assess the skills of up to 150 job applicants as the company adds up to 50 staff members through the next 12 months. The company also will profile its quality control, materials handler, maintenance, plastics production and adhesive mixer positions as a result of the state funding.
- **AM General Corp.** of Mishawaka received \$10,746 to assess the skills of up to 300 job applicants as it seeks to fill up to 100 new jobs. AM General also will use the funding to profile its general assembly and body shop occupational categories.
- **Single Source Inc.** of Plymouth received \$2,435 to assess the skills of five incumbent workers and nine job applicants as it seeks to fill three new positions. Using the state funding, the company also will profile its machinist job category.
- **Towne Air Freight** of South Bend received \$13,041 assess the skills of 47 incumbent workers and up to 63 job applicants as the company seeks to fill 21 new jobs. In addition, the company will profile five positions for its national call center.
- **Weir International** of Plymouth received \$14,877 to assess the skills of 195 job applicants as it seeks to fill as many as 65 new positions. Using the state funding, the company also will profile its diesel mechanics A, B and C, ticket writer and parts clerk positions.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 30,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 700 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys®, the centerpiece of Indiana@Work, is a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

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Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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