



## SE MN Regional Workforce Development Strategic Planning Summit

### August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018



On Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Workforce Development Board, Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) staff members, community partners, local business representatives, and local and state officials gathered at the Wood Lake Conference Center for the SE MN Regional Workforce Development Strategic Planning Summit to discuss the current state of the workforce, what WDI has accomplished this past year, and what is

in store for the years to come. WDI Executive Director, Randy Johnson, opened the day and welcomed comments from State Senator Carla Nelson and Minnesota House Representative Duane Sauke. The floor then returned to Johnson, who gave a Labor Market Overview and fielded questions from attendees. During lunch, participants were encouraged to discuss two questions, "Who are the underemployed people in our region and what prevents them from having



full-time, living-wage work?" and "Why have the workforce participation rates for youth (16-19) not yet rebounded?" Operations Director, Wanda Jensen and Area Manager, Jakki Trihey presented the "Regional Playbook," a project they have been working on. The "Regional Playbook" highlights employment sectors and includes valuable information on each sector, along with success stories from both the employer's and job seeker's viewpoints. The day ended with Johnson offering some closing remarks, outlining goals, and requesting engagement from participants as we move forward.