



HIRED

1200 Plymouth Avenue North · Minneapolis, MN 55411
TEL 612-529-3342 · FAX 612-529-7131 · www.HIRED.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2008

CONTACT: Leah Rich; Neuger Communications Group
888.761.3400; rich@neuger.com

HIRED'S M-POWERED PROGRAM RECEIVES RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (September 2, 2008) – HIRED, a Minneapolis-based provider of personalized and innovative work solutions for individuals and employers, was honored with the Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Labor for its M-Powered training program. M-Powered – a program spearheaded by HIRED in collaboration with Hennepin Technical College and the Precision Metalforming Association – trains Minnesota jobseekers for careers in manufacturing.

HIRED Executive Director Jane Samargia said, “M-Powered is a true success story, and we’re honored to have been chosen for the U.S. Department of Labor’s Excellence Award. The program is a real win-win for everyone involved. Employers are hiring well-trained individuals and jobseekers are obtaining industry-appropriate training for jobs that will pay them a good living wage. M-Powered is a shining example of the good that can come from collaboration.”

Developed in 2004, M-Powered’s training model grew out of the need for skilled workers in several Twin Cities-based manufacturing plants. The 96-hour training program, which was developed in collaboration with area employers, focuses on classroom training that meets National Institute for Metalworking Skills credential requirements. The course covers basic skills employers require, such as shop math, blueprint reading, precision measurement, shop safety, quality in section, machine operation and computer skills.

Nancy James, HIRED senior program director and coordinator for the M-Powered program, said, “HIRED has a history of seeing results through the building of strategic partnerships. The pieces to this puzzle were out there, but nobody had put them together. That’s where HIRED excels.”

M-Powered, which will launch a new cohort of students this fall, continues to exceed program goals. Data collected for recent training sessions shows that more than 150 people completed the training program and nearly 94 percent of those who graduated were placed in jobs. Additionally, entry-level workers placed in jobs earned a wage of \$11.95 per hour.

Samargia continued, “HIRED’s collaborative approach has proven to be extraordinarily effective and M-Powered is capturing the attention of people across the nation and across the globe. In today’s economy, preparing workers for success in the workplace and stability in their personal lives is our number one goal.”

- more -



HIRED

1200 Plymouth Avenue North · Minneapolis, MN 55411
TEL 612-529-3342 · FAX 612-529-7131 · www.HIRED.org

M-Powered Receives Excellence Award

September 2, 2008

Page 2 of 2

M-Powered's Excellence Award for Leveraging the Power of Partnerships was presented to HIRED by the U.S. Department of Labor at the 2008 Workforce Innovations Conference held in New Orleans, La.

Founded in 1968, HIRED's mission is to provide personalized and innovative work solutions. HIRED assists disadvantaged people and other job seekers to become qualified for and obtain employment. HIRED enrolls more than 8,000 persons annually in a number of programs designed to assist low-income adults, dislocated workers, welfare-to-work individuals, refugees and youth. In addition, HIRED provides recruitment and retention services for hundreds of employers each year. To learn more about HIRED, visit www.HIRED.org or call 612.529.3342.

#