



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2006**

FOR: HIRED
1200 Plymouth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

CONTACT: 1.888.761.3400 Leah Whitworth or Randolph Jennings
507.664.0484 (direct) or 507.664.0700
whitworth@neuger.com jennings@neuger.com

**HIRED AND HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
PRESENT METALFORMING CERTIFICATES**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (May 17, 2006) – HIRED, one of the most respected workforce development organizations in the Twin Cities area, and Hennepin Technical College will present certificates of achievement to 36 metalforming manufacturing training program graduates during a ceremony on Thursday, May 18, on the college's Brooklyn Park campus. The 5:30 p.m. ceremony will feature a keynote address by Phyllis Eisen, vice president of the Manufacturing Institute of the National Association of Manufacturers and executive director of the Center for Workforce Success in Washington, D.C.

The metalforming manufacturing training program — developed with a grant from the National Association of Manufacturers and supported in part by the Hennepin County Employment Intervention Program — grew out of a need for skilled workers in several Twin Cities-based manufacturing plants. The 96-hour training program 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, inspection, machine operation and computer skills.

- more -

HIRED and Hennepin Technical Present Certificates
Page two of two
May 17, 2006

Jane Samargia, executive director of HIRED said, “The skills the metalforming training program provides are the first steps in setting these graduates on the right track. We are committed to providing training and employment solutions to job seekers throughout the Twin Cities area, and this program is a perfect example of how HIRED works with employers to create programs that provide jobseekers with the training employers need them to have.”

Graduates of the program are prepared for entry-level jobs in a wide range of manufacturing firms, and are qualified for advanced manufacturing training. The graduates in Thursday’s program are a part of the fifth cohort of program participants. Approximately 115 workers have participated, with 72% securing employment.

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 9,000 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.

#