

Emerge Community Development News Release

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March 14 Signing Ceremony is a Sign of Opportunity for 77 residents of North Minneapolis

(March 11, 2008—Minneapolis) — A Grant Signing Ceremony to be held Friday, March 14 at 2 p.m. at the Emerge Community Development offices at 1101 West Broadway in North Minneapolis is a sign of opportunity for 77 residents of North and Northeast Minneapolis. The event marks the beginning of a three-year workforce-development collaboration among Emerge, Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), and two manufacturing companies with offices in North Minneapolis — Coloplast Manufacturing U.S, an international manufacturer and marketer of medical devices and services headquartered in Denmark, and Internet Die Cast Group, one of three operating divisions for Internet, a Fort Worth, Texas-based supplier of cast-metal components for automotive, commercial-vehicle, and industrial markets. The initiative is funded by a \$177,112 Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grant through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

According to Emerge Executive Director Mike Wynne, “This is a great collaboration that draws on the strengths of all its partners to ensure that 77 residents of North and Northeast Minneapolis will not only receive training but obtain work experience that will help them gain entry into long-term, good paying jobs and provide fundamental knowledge to open the door for advancement.. At Emerge, we are focused on providing training and employment opportunities that will help participants recognize their learning and earning potential. This collaboration will help us in meeting that goal,” he said.

Beginning in April, Emerge will recruit the first class of students to enroll in the Spring 2008 session of the assembly and manufacturing training program. These students will complete 175 hours of training over the course of several weeks. Emerge will support each of the enrolled students to ensure their successful completion of the program. Once that is accomplished, the agency will assist each student in finding work in manufacturing. Three subsequent sessions will run over the course of the next two years.

MCTC, with the support and input of Internet and Coloplast staff, will develop the assembly and manufacturing training program. Students who successfully complete the training will have the equivalent of two years of work experience and will be qualified for entry-level positions in Internet Die Cast Group and Coloplast. Occupational certificates will be awarded for completion of the courses. Both employers are committed to hiring trainees who complete the training successfully.

Most classes will be conducted at MCTC's Downtown Minneapolis campus, but Internet and Coloplast will provide students with opportunities for shadowing, tours, and meeting with the company supervisors. They will also support the training program by allowing employees with specific specialty skills to serve as program instructors.

Emerge, an affiliate of Pillsbury United Communities, is focused on building stronger communities through social enterprise and community development. It is a \$6.1 million operation employing a 54 person staff, running 20 programs, and partnering with dozens of community, business, government and non-profit organizations throughout the Twin Cities. Through its four integrated focus areas—Emerge Community Development, Emerge Villages, Emerge Workforce and Emerge Ventures-- Emerge touches the lives of thousands of low income and/or disenfranchised people in dozens of Twin Cities' communities. Learn more at www.emerge-mn.org

Coloplast, a \$1.1 billion global health care company based in Copenhagen, Denmark, relocated its North American corporate headquarters to Minnesota in 2006. 300 jobs moved to the new corporate campus on West River Road in north Minneapolis from Marietta, Georgia. The move enabled the company to double the size of its facilities to 500,000 square feet for office, research and development, and production activities. Coloplast also received \$500,000 in financing from the Minnesota Investment Fund to help with location costs. Learn more at www.coloplast.com/

The Internet Die Cast group is one of three operating divisions for Internet, a Fort Worth, Texas-based supplier of cast-metal components for automotive, commercial-vehicle, and industrial markets. Learn more at www.internet.com/

Minneapolis Community and Technical College makes individual dreams achievable by providing access to learning opportunities that prepare students to live and work in a democratic society within a global community. Learn more at www.minneapolis.edu/

The Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP) Program strategically helps Minnesota businesses and schools competitively train the workforce. Learn more at <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/mjsp/>