

News Release

New Greater St. Cloud Talent Portal Features Over 950 Regional Jobs

St. Cloud, MN, September 9, 2014 – The Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation (GSDC) recently launched a regional talent portal, Greater St. Cloud JobSpot (www.GreaterStCloudJobSpot.com). The portal is an outcome of one of the GSDC six strategic initiatives, “Attract, develop and retain and expand the regional talent pool.”

JobSpot links employers, job seekers, educational institutions and workforce partners, and is a resource for all community members focusing on workforce development. Since its launch in May, more than 280 job seekers and 180 employers have registered on the site, over 950 jobs have been posted, and many positions have been filled.

In order to serve regional employers specifically, JobSpot features only jobs located in Benton, Stearns and the northern half of Sherburne counties. However, job seekers from throughout the world may access the JobSpot job postings and other information on the site through the World Wide Web. Currently, regional employers are able to post an unlimited number of jobs at no cost through December, 2014. The site is, and will remain, free of charge to job seekers and other visitors.

Financially, the talent portal was made possible through a matching grant of \$125,000 from the Morgan Family Foundation. GSDC secured donations and funds from other sources, including the Initiative Foundation, Central Minnesota Community Foundation, Central Minnesota Community Priorities Project, area higher education institutions, and private businesses to successfully meet the \$125,000 match requirement.

Greater St. Cloud JobSpot has been developed by the GSDC Talent Corps, whose role is to facilitate collaboration between business, education, and workforce resource partners. Objectives of the Talent Corps include:

- Centralize and showcase the region’s talent needs and career opportunities
- Reduce the “brain drain” of post-secondary students leaving the region
- Market the region and career opportunities to targeted groups outside the region
- Assist businesses in analyzing the current local talent pool

In addition to creating a regional talent portal, GSDC has created the position of Talent Director, newly filled by Gail Cruikshank. The Talent Director will manage the portal and work collaboratively with education systems and institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations, workforce partners, and others, in forwarding the Talent Corps objectives for the benefit of all

regional workforce stakeholders. For information about Greater St. Cloud Jobspot contact Gail Cruikshank, gcruikshank@greaterstcloud.com or (320) 257-4753.

About the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation

The Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation is a non-profit (501c3) collaboration of more than 125 regional public and private organizations in Central Minnesota. The GSDC is leading a community-wide commitment to harness the vast resources of the region, facilitate community, education, and business collaboration, expand the talent base, spearhead economic development efforts, and make the greater St. Cloud area one of the best places to live, work and play. The GSDC is funded through business investor contributions, personal contributions, and grants, and all actions are self-governed by the organization's investors, boards and various committees. Learn more at www.greaterstcloud.com.

About the Morgan Family Foundation

The Morgan Family Foundation is a private family foundation based in Yellow Springs, Ohio and funded in December 2003 by Lee and Vicki Morgan. The Foundation believes in building stronger, more inclusive communities and broadening horizons and inspiring action through the power of education and experiential learning. The Morgan Family Foundation invests its grant resources in nonprofit partners that are preparing individuals to serve and lead the community, building healthy relationships in all kinds of families, and triggering bold, collaborative community projects. Learn more at www.morganfamilyfdn.org.