

PressRelease

For Immediate Release: September 16, 2009



THE OFFICE OF
ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

CONTACT:

Cathy de Moll, Director of Communications
651-556-8002
Cathy.de.moll@state.mn.us

658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55105
www.oet.state.mn.us

**Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development nominated for
“Outstanding Achievement in State IT” award**
*DEED’s “Unemployment Insurance Technology Initiative Project” one of three national
finalists*

ST PAUL – A groundbreaking information technology project begun in 2003 by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has been named one of three finalists for an “Outstanding Achievement in State IT” prize, awarded annually by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO). The program, Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Technology Initiative Project, is one of three finalists in the “Digital Government: Government to Citizen” category. The winner will be announced in Austin, Texas on October 26th during NASCIO’s annual conference.

The DEED redesign project is responsible for creating the first integrated unemployment insurance (UI) program in the nation. For the first time, the wage information submitted and payments made by employers is integrated with the benefits applied for and paid out to unemployed workers. Prior to the system redesign, the UI program operated on twelve different system platforms; now all business activity is run on a single platform. Additionally, unemployed workers are now able to apply for unemployment benefits (largely without DEED staff assistance), view and maintain their own account information (address, income tax withholding, and payment method), and receive and respond to requests for information online.

As a result, DEED’s UI program is responsible for drastically cutting the amount of time necessary to complete basic system functions:

- Employer registration was cut from 2-7 days to immediate
- Wage adjustments were cut from 15-50 days to immediate-to-2 days
- There are no tax forms to complete and tax calculations are now done by the system
- Employers now have the ability to manage their own accounts
- System is available 20+ hours a day/7 days a week

“DEED’s unemployment insurance program is a great example of how innovative information technology solutions can make government assistance more accessible to those that need them most,” said Minnesota’s Chief Information Officer (CIO) Gopal Khanna. “Particularly in the current economic climate, the speed with which an online, “do-it-yourself” system can process unemployment claims can

PRESS RELEASE

Continued



make a significant difference in the life of individual citizens and in the economic health of our state. DEED is to be congratulated for creating such a fine national model for the power of digital government.”

“We are serving our unemployment insurance customers better because of DEED’s new online UI system. Our customers have easier access to the UI system, greater visibility into their accounts, and more convenience,” said DEED Commissioner Dan McElroy. “It has also enabled us to stay ahead of the increased volume the UI program has experienced since the economic downturn began.”

“NASCIO’s Recognition Award program highlights leadership, innovation and collaboration,” said Greg Wass, CIO, State of Illinois and NASCIO Awards Committee Co-Chair. “Learning from the successes of our colleagues around the country, we can all reap the benefit of efficient business practices, quality information management, and sound technology policy.”

Thirty initiatives were chosen as finalists from 117 submissions by 31 states. NASCIO’s Awards committee, comprised of judges from the association’s state and corporate members, selected the 2009 award finalists. Full submissions from all nominations are posted to NASCIO’s website at www.nascio.org/awards.

###