

economic development officials are touting to help recruit additional workers to the area and stave off the potential labor shortage, threatening the region's red-hot economic recovery.

Sheboygan County has seen its unemployment rate hovering at lows not seen since before the Great Recession of 2008, about 4.5 percent for February and March, the latest months released by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The region's economy is one of the fastest-growing in the state.

But that growth is posing a unique challenge — not enough eligible workers to fill the available jobs. Already, the county has more than 1,300 jobs available.

When DatingAdvice.com recognized Sheboygan as an ideal place for young millennial women to meet high-quality men, economic development officials were quick to spread the news that “1,793 extra single men are waiting for you.”

“We must continue to address the need for additional workforce,” says Dane Checolinski, director of the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation. “With over 1,300 jobs posted in the county and current unemployment numbers down to less than 2,800, our growth will be inhibited without an increase of available workers.”

Sheboygan was the only city in the upper Midwest region, including Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, to make the DatingAdvice.com list. Other cities included far-flung places such as Washington, South Carolina and Texas. The website also touted the income potential of bachelors in Sheboygan County, where per capita income is seventh highest in the state. Additionally, millennial women can find quality companies for their own careers such as Acuity, HSA Bank, Kohler and American Orthodontics, according to SCEDC.

“DatingAdvice.com provides recognition of the vast variety of

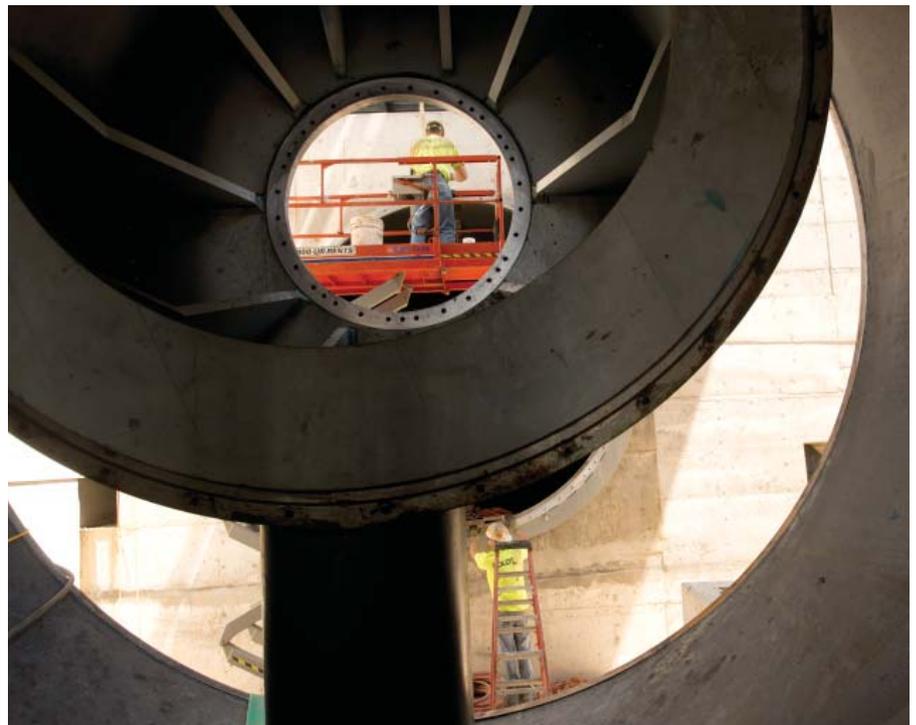
qualities offered in Sheboygan County,” says Sara Spicer, SCEDC's attraction marketing specialist. “The county was recently recognized as ‘Most Equitable Community in the United States’ by Global Post, and we know millennials value equality. Other recognition such as ‘Best Midwest Beaches,’ ‘Bicycle Friendly Community,’ and one of the ‘Smartest Communities in the United States’ are just some of the values that research shows millennials hold in high regard.”

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### Waupaca Foundry wins accolades for green efforts

Waupaca Foundry Inc. has earned a spot in the Wisconsin Green Tier program for its voluntary efforts to reduce and reuse waste from its operations.

More than 80 companies are part of the statewide [continued] »



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Owners, Kip Golden, left and Chad Reichelt

program, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Foundries have long been recognized among the original industrial recyclers because they use scrap iron in the process for producing new iron castings. In recent years, Waupaca Foundry has been implementing a plan to achieve sustainable growth by the year 2020. Those goals include:

- » Reducing energy use by 25 percent
- » Promoting state-of-the-art pollution control technologies
- » Reduce spent foundry sand by 30 percent to reuse/recycle sand used in the casting process
- » Reduce water use by 80 percent

In addition to its Green Tier ranking, the foundry earned the American Council of Engineering Companies' Engineering Excellence Award in the State of Wisconsin as well as a National ACEC Engineering Excellence Recognition Award for a project re-using foundry by-product to enhance the sustainability of WFI's landfill.

Those awards were earned based on a program to reuse spent foundry sand and slag by-product of the metalcasting process. While Waupaca Foundry recycles 800,000 tons of sand annually, some can no longer be reused. Rather than sending these by-products to a landfill, Waupaca Foundry repurposed the materials to create a clean, non-toxic product that can be used in a variety of applications and industries, including as barrier material to prevent leaks in landfills.

As a result, more than 75 percent of the sand by-product generated from Waupaca Foundry processes are now being incorporated into a multitude of beneficial reuse projects in lieu of landfill disposal. Examples of such uses include geotechnical fill, road construction, mine reclamations, agricultural projects, cement manufacturing, concrete products, commercial blasting media and asphalt. ①

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