



**Something you should know about**  
**Diageo North America, Inc.**

The Workforce Investment Board of Will County provided funding to Diageo North America, through its Employee Training Grant Program that enabled five Operations Team members to receive training that will benefit Diageo's operations in Plainfield, Illinois.

Diageo North America, Inc. is the world's leading premium drinks business with an outstanding collection of alcohol beverage brands across spirits, wine and beer categories. These brands include: Smirnoff, Johnnie Walker, Guinness, Baileys, J&B, Captain Morgan, Cuervo, Tanqueray, Crown Royal and Beaulieu Vineyard and Sterling Vineyards wines. Diageo is a global company, trading in over 180 markets around the world. The company is listed on both the London Stock Exchange (DGE) and the New York Stock Exchange (DEO).

Diageo employs over 20,000 people worldwide with offices in around 80 countries. Diageo was formed in 1997, following the merger of Guinness and GrandMet and is headquartered in London. Its Plainfield, Illinois site employees over 200 people.

The Employee Training Grant Program provides resources for employers to train currently employed workers in an effort to keep businesses and workers competitive. It addresses training needed to meet changing skill requirements caused by new technology, retooling, new product lines, and new organization structuring.

Five Operations Team members were trained in a three-day intensive course provided by Krones Academy which involved both classroom and hands-on training. The courses covered general theory, component safety, operational procedures, changeover processes, and cleaning of equipment. Diageo now realizes the training benefits that will decrease downtime, improve machine operation efficiency, lower maintenance costs, and increase productivity, especially in light of the addition of its fifth production line in July of 2006.



"This was Diageo's first year participating in this program. Thanks to the local business grants provided by the Workforce Investment Board of Will County, we were able to send five of our employees to formal Labeler training at the Krones Academy in Franklin, WI," said Will Estrada, Plant Reliability Manager. "These employees received great hands-on experience on some of the new labeling equipment we purchased for our facility in Plainfield. The grant we received from the Workforce Investment Board was a great compliment to our plant's training budget, as we continually strive for value."

The Workforce Investment Board of Will County is excited to provide this unique training opportunity to Diageo, and other companies that provide integral workforce opportunities to our community. For more information on the Workforce Investment Board's Employee Training Grant Program contact Mary Gajcak at 815-727-5679