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## IT Industry Claims Top “Hot Jobs”

Bismarck, N.D. – Job Service North Dakota (JSND) has identified two information technology (IT) occupations as the hottest jobs in North Dakota. Computer software engineers—systems software and computer and information systems managers, respectively, are the most-in-demand of the state’s 40 high-growth, high-wage occupations.

“The **HOTJOBS** list compiled by our Labor Market Information Center is based on the latest projected growth factors and wage information,” says Maren Daley, JSND executive director. “IT is at the top of the list due to wages that exceed the state average and a high demand for IT-related positions across all industries.”

Between 2006 and 2016, it’s expected that the number of computer software engineering positions in systems software will grow by 45 percent. This year, the typical employee in this position will make more than double the state’s average wage—\$68,111 compared to \$31,316. Computer and information systems managers will make even more, averaging \$77,280.

Five other IT occupations made the top 40 **HOTJOBS** list, including computer software engineers—applications, computer systems analysts, database administrators, network and computer systems administrators, and network systems and data communications analysts. The average salary for these positions ranges from \$45,000 to \$56,000.

“The number of jobs and the wages available in the IT field are tremendous and constantly growing,” says Gary Inman, customer support and services director for Echelon Corp. in Fargo. “Unfortunately, many people aren’t aware of the numerous opportunities in North Dakota, which is causing a severe workforce shortage.”

Inman is president of the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND). He says ITCND is developing an IT Career Awareness Program, with the help of public and private partners, to address workforce needs. The program will inform students, parents and educators of IT career opportunities in North Dakota; encourage students to enroll in IT-related classes and program degrees at the secondary and post-secondary education levels; and ultimately develop a world-class IT workforce for the future.

For more information about the IT Career Awareness Program, visit [www.itcnd.org/initiatives.php](http://www.itcnd.org/initiatives.php) or contact Deana Wiese, ITCND executive director, at 701-355-4458 or office@itcnd.org.

Additional JSND **HOTJOBS** can be found in the **HOTJOBS** brochure and the *North Dakota Employment Projections 2006-2016* publication available at [www.jobsnd.com](http://www.jobsnd.com) by clicking on "NDWIN." The publication can also be requested by calling 800-732-9787 or e-mailing [ndlmi@nd.gov](mailto:ndlmi@nd.gov).

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**Note to Editors:** *If you are interested in developing a feature story about the IT industry in North Dakota, ITCND is available to help put you in contact with IT professionals across the state. Contact Deana Wiese at the telephone number or e-mail address above.*