

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Workforce Development**

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## **Doyle Administration Awards \$90,000 to Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College**

***Builds on Governor's Initiative to Make Child Care Tax Deductible***

**Hudson** – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that the DWD is awarding \$90,473 in Community Child Care Initiative grants to three Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) campuses as part of Governor Jim Doyle's *KidsFirst* Initiative.

"The quality of care and learning opportunities that our kids receive at an early age is directly related to their development and ability to do well in school," Secretary Gassman said in announcing the grant. "This investment in our children and families through stronger child care programs will last a lifetime."

The three campuses will receive:

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-New Richmond	\$30,239
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-Rice Lake	\$39,553
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-Superior	\$20,681

The funding will allow the WITC-New Richmond campus to offer child care workshops; and continuing education, pre-licensing and certification courses, including evening classes in St. Croix County. WITC-Rice Lake will offer an entry level licensing course and work with the CESA #11 Head Start program and the Rice Lake Public Library to create training for child care providers covering topics such as, diversity, child abuse prevention and the use of technology in child care. The Rice Lake campus will also work in collaboration with the Northwest Child Care Connection to supplement child care provider resources. WITC-Superior serves the Superior-Douglas County region and will use the grant funds to offer 12 courses in early child care to 150 students, including evening classes in the Early Childhood Associate Degree program.

In 2006, DWD will award a total of \$2.5 million statewide in Community Child Care Initiative grants to counties, tribes, municipalities, public school districts and Wisconsin Technical College districts. The grants will be used to improve the quality, supply and accessibility of child care throughout Wisconsin. Recipients must match the grant funds awarded. Funds may be used toward a variety of activities to improve child care quality, such as:

- Helping parents make informed choices about selecting child care providers;
- Educating the general public;
- Increasing opportunities for children with disabilities in child care settings;
- Local collaborative planning to improve early child care and education services;
- Developing a community plan for meeting child care needs related to four-year-old kindergarten for working families; or
- Offering child care for children documented to be receiving or in need of protective services.

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“We are committed to the children and families in our state – from promoting and improving early childhood education to giving our parents a tax break on paying for child care,” said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman.

Governor Doyle has proposed a new tax deduction that will allow parents to deduct up to \$3,000 for child care expenses for one child, and up to \$6,000 for two or more children. This new tax benefit will save nearly \$400 for a family with two children in child care. According to the National Association of Child Care Research and Referrals Agency, there are 253,335 children in Wisconsin under the age of six that have either both parents working or are from a single parent household where the parent works.

For more information regarding DWD’s child care programs, see DWD’s website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/grants/default.htm> and DWD’s home page at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov>.

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