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Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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Department of Workforce Development Receives Diversity Award *Secretary Gassman receives award second time for diverse, talented staff*

Madison – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today received the 2006 Annual Diversity Award which recognized DWD for its exemplary record in hiring and promoting minorities, women and people with disabilities.

During a ceremony at the Capitol, Secretary Gassman said her Department's record reflects Governor Doyle's commitment to diversity. She noted Governor Doyle has the most diverse cabinet in the nation and that he appointed the first African-American to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Louis Butler.

"Like Governor Doyle, we didn't set diversity as the goal," Secretary Gassman said. "Rather, we went looking for talent, and the result is a talented, diverse staff of women and men that better reflects the diversity of this state. May this award inspire all of us – public and private employers – to do even more to create a talented, diverse workforce. It makes good social and economic sense."

Overall, more than 15 percent of the Department's employees are minority, 64 percent are women and more than 12 percent are people with disabilities. In each case, the percentages exceed that of the statewide population and the state labor force.

Of more than 250 new hires in one year, 20 percent were minorities, nearly 66 percent were women and 11 percent were people with disabilities. In the past year, 11 of 14 key promotions to management positions were women, three of them minority women. Nearly 13 percent of DWD senior managers are minorities.

The State Council on Affirmative Action and the Office of State Employment Relations presented DWD with its first diversity award in 2004. The two agencies honored the DWD again this year, not only for improving on its record, but its outreach efforts in serving an increasingly bilingual population, especially Spanish speaking residents. The Department created and filled an agency liaison position for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program to improve access to services and develop a LEP work web.

- 30 -