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**Juan José López Named Director of Migrant, Refugee and Labor Services Bureau
*Secretary Gassman Welcomes López, Cites Wealth of Experience***

Madison – Wisconsin’s Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the appointment of Juan José López as director of DWD’s Bureau of Migrant, Refugee and Labor Services.

“Juan has a wealth of experience that will be invaluable to us as we follow Governor Doyle’s lead in growing our economy with not only the best workforce, but a diverse workforce, and opportunities for all who want to work,” Secretary Gassman said. “He has served the Madison community and Wisconsin in many capacities, from volunteer to administrator for public and private, nonprofit agencies, with one constant focus, improving the lives of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, especially children.”

Since July of 2005, López has served as policy analyst in the Wisconsin Department of Justice. He previously was executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, Inc., and from 1996 to 2001, executive director of Briarpatch, Inc., a nonprofit, crisis intervention agency serving homeless youth. He served 12 years on the Madison School Board, from 1994 until the spring election in 2006.

López served as an advisor to former Governor Anthony Earl, worked as a Job Service specialist in the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations (now DWD), is a current member of the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin and serves as chair of the Wisconsin United Migrant Opportunity Services Board of Directors.

The bureau provides services to migrant and foreign workers, and employers who rely on them. More than 4,500 migrant workers come to Wisconsin each year for jobs in fields and factories, and the bureau works to ensure their fair compensation and safe working and housing conditions. In addition, the bureau also has led efforts with local agencies in the successful resettlement of refugees, especially Hmong refugees from Laos. In more than three decades, over 47,000 Hmong have made Wisconsin their home, with earnings and homeownership rates above those of refugees settling in other states.

López is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in social work and community development. He is a native of San Antonio, Texas. His appointment is effective January 22nd.