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Roberta Gassman
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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DWD SECRETARY ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

Madison – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the appointments of JoAnna Richard as Deputy Secretary and Janel Hines as Executive Assistant for the department.

"I am pleased to announce the selection of these key individuals to the top management team at the Department of Workforce Development," Secretary Gassman said. "The challenges before us in building our current and future workforce, protecting the rights of the state's workers and employers, helping people connect to jobs and ensuring Wisconsin's children can grow up in safe, nurturing environments require strong leaders who can make strategic decisions. I know that I can count on the leadership of both these individuals as we move the state forward."

As Deputy Secretary, Richard will be responsible for the Department's day-to-day operations. Richard served as DWD's Executive Assistant overseeing the department's legislative outreach, communications and relationships with other state agencies since 2003. She came to DWD from the Office of the Attorney General where she served as Legislative Liaison, budget and policy analyst and advisor to the Attorney General on matters pending before the Legislature. She also has experience in public policy work for the State Assembly, Senate and in the private sector.

Richard replaces Deputy Secretary Micabil (Mike) Diaz-Martinez who has accepted a top management position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Said Gassman, "Micabil Diaz has been a strong leader for DWD as both Deputy Secretary and Administrator of the Equal Rights Division. As a veteran himself, he is passionate about veteran's issues and I recognize that this is a wonderful opportunity for him."

Attorney Janel Hines will be DWD's new Executive Assistant, filling one of the department's top three leadership roles. Hines will be responsible for external relations for the Secretary's Office, including communications, legislative and congressional relations and interactions with DWD partner agencies and organizations. Hines is currently employed by Milwaukee Public Schools as Manager of Certified Staff. She has extensive experience in nonprofit management and administration, legal compliance and oversight, as well as program development, performance management, and budget and finance. She was Deputy Director and a top manager for the Milwaukee Women's Center, Inc., a women and minority governed private non-profit in Milwaukee for over eleven years and has been active in the Milwaukee community. Hines earned her law degree from the UW-Madison and has served as an attorney with Jackson and Associates in Milwaukee and the Office of the State Public Defender in Madison.

The appointments are effective February 5th, 2007.

The Department of Workforce Development, a \$2 billion agency with 1,900 employees, manages the state's work-related programs designed to connect people with employment opportunities in Wisconsin.

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