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## **Manitowoc Crane Wins Wisconsin Apprenticeship Award**

*Partnership with Lakeshore Technical College has produced over 300 journey workers*

**Madison** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman yesterday addressed the 23<sup>rd</sup> biennial Apprenticeship Conference and Expo held in Madison. She highlighted the state's apprenticeship program and reported that adult apprenticeship opportunities are increasing as a result of the economic and workforce development initiatives advanced by Governor Doyle.

"Wisconsin's adult apprenticeship program is a sure pathway to a quality workforce," Secretary Gassman said. "The program is one of the reasons our workforce remains second to none. It has been a model to other states since its inception nearly a century ago, first in the nation. Whether you're a recent high school graduate, a veteran returning from active duty, or someone searching for a more rewarding career, the adult apprenticeship program can put you on the path to jobs with good pay and benefits in the skilled trades."

In addition to economic and workforce development initiatives in the Governor's budget, Secretary Gassman stated that DWD will increase efforts this year to reach out to employers and encourage their participation in the adult apprenticeship program to further increase enrollment. "The success of this program is due in large part to the employers who recognize the value of the program and provide training and work opportunities for apprentices," Secretary Gassman said. "We applaud them for supporting the apprenticeship program and for helping to build the state's future workforce."

During a luncheon awards ceremony, Manitowoc Crane Group received the state Apprenticeship Program Sponsor Award.

Manitowoc Cranes, Inc., has six apprenticeship training programs in partnership with Lakeshore Technical College: fabrication, machinist, electrician, assembly, test, and maintenance. In 2005, two of its apprentices placed first and second at the American Welding Society's Professional Welder's Competition in Chicago.

Over the years, Manitowoc Crane has graduated approximately 300 journeypersons. To achieve journeyperson status, apprentices must complete 8,320 hours over four years. As part of their instruction at Lakeshore Technical College, fabricator apprentices have built scale models of an M-250 Crawler Crane and a 777 Crawler Crane. In 2005, apprentices started on a scale model of an 18000 Crawler Crane, an on-going class project.

Other employers, as well as several individuals, also were honored during a luncheon awards ceremony. Three people received the Apprentice Leadership Award:

- Alaina Gomez, a single mother from Milwaukee, who excelled as an apprentice in plumbing and now works for J.M. Brennan installing and maintaining medical gas systems at All Saints Hospital in Racine.
- Ivan Milanovic, a Serbian refugee, who overcame a language barrier to excel as an apprentice electrician and now works for Town & Country Electric, a division of Faith Technologies, Inc., Appleton;
- Dan Treichel, an electric lineman for River Falls Municipal Utilities. Treichel was the utility's first apprentice, and General Manager Carl Gaulke said they could not be more pleased with the result.

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In addition to Manitowoc Crane, two employers received the Apprenticeship Program Sponsor Award: H.J. Pertzborn Plumbing & Fire Protection Corporation, Madison; and Appearances at Alma's, Menomonie.

South Central WI Construction Laborers JAC and Zignego Company, Inc., Daniel A. Zignego, Controller won the Affirmative Action Award.

About 400 business leaders, skilled trade representatives and technical college instructors attended the conference, "The Path to a Quality Workforce," in Middleton. During the two-day conference, approximately 300 students from high schools in Dane County will visit Expo exhibits to learn about apprenticeship opportunities and rewarding careers in the trades.

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Secretary Gassman said an increase in adult apprenticeship enrollment last year was another sign of Wisconsin's growing economy. Enrollment hit a peak of 13,000 in 2001, but dropped below 10,000 following the recession. Enrollment increased last year and is about to exceed 10,000, due mainly the state's construction boom. Construction apprentices now total 5,928, up 220 from a year ago, including 114 minorities and women. Adult apprentices typically start at \$15 to \$16 an hour, about half of what successful apprentices will later earn as journeypersons.

To become an apprentice in most trades, an individual must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and meet minimum test scores in math, reading and comprehension.

For more information about the adult apprenticeship program, visit the department's website: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/appr/default.htm>.