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SECRETARY GASSMAN ANNOUNCES NEW DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR ***Appoints Ron Danowski to lead new Division of Employment and Training***

Madison – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the appointment of Ron Danowski as Administrator of DWD's newly organized Division of Employment and Training.

"The new division," said Secretary Gassman, "will allow DWD to focus like a laser beam on achieving Governor Doyle's goals for providing workers with skills and employers with skilled workers as Wisconsin's economy continues to grow and create jobs."

In selecting the new division's administrator, Secretary Gassman said, "Ron Danowski will be a great leader for the new Division of Employment and Training as we ensure Wisconsin's workforce remains second to none. The challenges before us in building our current and future workforce are as many and diverse as the economy itself. Meeting the needs of job seekers, workers and employers is crucial to the continued growth of our state and regional economies. The challenges we face require strong leaders who can make sound, strategic decisions. I know I can count on Ron Danowski as we move Wisconsin forward."

Danowski is a nationally recognized leader in workforce development. He has had a leading role in the success of Wisconsin's nationally recognized Dislocated Worker Program for nearly 20 years, securing more than \$40 million in funding for numerous projects serving displaced workers and communities. In nearly 30 years of state service, Danowski has received a number of awards, including the Civil Service Career Achievement Award and the "Make a Difference" award from the South Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board.

"Ron has worked extensively with employers, technical colleges, workforce development boards, organized labor and other stakeholders to promote workforce and economic development," Secretary Gassman said.

Since last year, Danowski has been co-chair of the National Dislocated Worker Workgroup that advises the U.S. Department of Labor. Soon after joining the panel in 1998, he was recognized nationally as a "Peer Expert" in the field serving dislocated workers. He has developed nationally recognized skills standards for Rapid Response teams that state labor departments dispatch to communities when potential job losses surface.

From 1993 to 2004, Danowski served as chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Professional Employees Council, representing 4,800 state employees. His career in state service began 1978 with the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.

Danowski received a Business Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The appointment is effective March 26, 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.