

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

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## **Secretary Gassman Highlights Health Care Worker Training**

**Kenosha** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said Wednesday Governor Doyle's budget will not only make Wisconsin first in health care reform, but ensure a first-rate health care workforce for years to come.

"Governor Doyle has put forth a fiscally responsible budget with a bold plan to see that every child in Wisconsin has health care coverage and that virtually every adult has access to affordable health care," Secretary Gassman said. "Under his leadership, Wisconsin can lead the nation in health care reform, and with further investments his budget makes in education and training, we can maintain the superior quality of care that distinguishes our health care workers."

Secretary Gassman highlighted the health care reform and workforce initiatives in the Governor's budget during a visit to Gateway Technical College. She met with nursing students and observed them as they practiced medical procedures on a high-tech mannequin that can be programmed to show a variety of symptoms and react as a human patient would to treatment and medication.

Secretary Gassman said education remains the Governor's top priority and continued investments in Wisconsin's excellent schools would help meet the growing demand for well-trained health care workers. Among the items in his budget, she cited provisions that would:

- Add a third year of math and science as a high school graduation requirement;
- Double Youth Apprenticeship funding to \$2.2 million in the second year of the biennium to allow more apprenticeship opportunities in health care and other fields;
- Promise, under his Wisconsin Covenant initiative, financial aid for technical college or university tuition to eighth grade students who go on to graduate from high school as model students with a B average or better.

Earlier in the day, Secretary Gassman addressed the summit meeting at Carthage College. As a member of Governor Doyle's cabinet, she leads the state labor department and oversees 1,900 employees charged with strengthening Wisconsin's workforce.