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## Secretary Gassman Announces \$12,392 Grant to Train 27 Workers in Chippewa Falls

### *Workforce Advancement Training Grant to Help Premier Dies Train Workers for Highly-Skilled Jobs of Tomorrow; Also Highlights Importance of Wisconsin Covenant*

CHIPPEWA FALLS – On behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced a grant today that will help Premier Dies Corporation of Chippewa Falls train 27 workers in advanced manufacturing. The \$12,392 Workforce Advancement Training Grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System was awarded to Chippewa Valley Technical College, which will provide training for Premier Dies employees.

“This grant will help Premier Dies upgrade its workers’ skills, meet training needs in advanced manufacturing, and increase business productivity,” Secretary Gassman said. “If we are to have a strong Wisconsin economy in the future, we must make investments now in job training and workforce development. Through workforce advancement training, our technical colleges are able to create a worker-training program that meets our businesses’ needs and ensures highly-skilled workers for tomorrow’s jobs.”

The grant will enable Chippewa Valley Tech to provide 103 hours of advanced manufacturing training to all 27 employees at Premier Dies – helping the company meet training needs in lean manufacturing, process and quality improvement, and quick changeover training. With this training, employees will gain the skills to efficiently manufacture products that meet customer specifications within the required delivery time. The training is also expected to increase build capacity of products by 25 percent and reduce employee errors by 30 percent.

Premier Dies designs and manufactures custom-designed slot coating and flat polymer extrusion dies used by industrial processors of web-based products. The company has a highly-experienced team with over 160 years of combined experience in the design and manufacture of flat dies.

Workforce Advancement Training grants are awarded to technical colleges throughout the state to work with local businesses and upgrade worker skills and productivity for Wisconsin workers and businesses – providing improved job security, increased career opportunities, and support for regional workforce and economic development efforts. The budget Governor Doyle proposed to the Legislature quadruples investments in workforce advancement training, from \$2 million to \$8 million, to help Wisconsin’s technical colleges train an additional 36,000 workers. This investment ensures that Wisconsin is creating highly-skilled workers prepared to fill the jobs of tomorrow and that the state remains competitive in the economy of the future.

Secretary Gassman also highlighted the Governor’s Wisconsin Covenant program as crucial to ensuring a skilled workforce and sustaining economic growth. The Wisconsin Covenant is a promise to students that if they work hard in high school and make the grade, they will be assured a place in higher education and a financial aid package based on their family’s financial need. Students entering ninth grade have until September 14, 2007 to sign the Covenant. Students starting eighth grade will begin signing the Covenant later this fall. More on the Wisconsin Covenant can be found online at [www.wisconsin covenant.wi.gov](http://www.wisconsin covenant.wi.gov).