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Governor Doyle Proclaims September as Workforce Development Month in Wisconsin

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today proclaimed September as Workforce Development Month to recognize the importance of partnerships in education, job training, and other workforce development services in strengthening the state’s economy.

“Investing in workforce development and job training now is one of the smartest investments we can make for a strong Wisconsin economy in the future,” Governor Doyle said. “The states that will do well five, 10, 15 years from now are the states that have the most flexible, trained workforce. That’s why the State of Wisconsin is working hard with our technical colleges and businesses to train our workers for the jobs of tomorrow and ensure that Wisconsin continues to have a highly-trained, highly-skilled workforce producing the best quality products.”

The Governor’s proclamation states a month dedicated to workforce development is essential because:

- The quality and development of the Wisconsin workforce is the shared responsibility of many individuals and public and private organizations at the state and local levels.
- A strong workforce development system recognizes the need for preparing Wisconsin youth, and providing high quality post-secondary education and other initiatives that develop skilled workers and high performance workplaces.
- Wisconsin’s state and regional business-led workforce investment boards and other public bodies provide leadership to the state workforce development system to ensure resources are directed to developing basic workplace skills, career ladder opportunities, and high-quality training in high-wage, high-demand jobs that support the vision of the Governor’s “Grow Wisconsin” agenda.

In his budget, the Governor has proposed a number of items to build on Wisconsin’s success and ensure a highly-trained, highly-skilled workforce. Some of those proposals include: quadrupling funding for Workforce Advancement Training Grants to improve the skills of 36,000 workers statewide; doubling funding for Youth Apprenticeship to provide 4,000 high schools students with school-to-career opportunities; and investing \$30 million in a new bio initiative designed to position Wisconsin as a leader in the bio industry and create new jobs. Wisconsin’s economy has improved under Governor Doyle’s Grow Wisconsin initiative. Over the past 12 months, Wisconsin has added 17,700 jobs. Unemployment is also relatively low and wages are up.

To view the Governor’s proclamation, please visit:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/images/2007_workforce_dev_mo_proc.pdf.

For a list of Workforce Development Month events, please visit:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/wrkforce_dev_mo_events.htm.

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