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Secretary Gassman Unveils Art Project Celebrating Wisconsin's Diverse, Talented Workforce

Series of Photos by Wisconsin Artists on Display in State Agency Lobby

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today unveiled an art exhibit celebrating Wisconsin's diverse and talented workforce and welcomed the public to view the photographs by Wisconsin artists in the lobby of the state office building housing DWD.

"The photos offer spectacular images, providing windows to the every day, working world of Wisconsin," Secretary Gassman said. "Wisconsin has the best workforce, and these pictures offer portraits of the many talented men and women who make up our labor force. The photographs represent virtually all groups and walks of life, a full range of occupations reflecting our heritage and our future."

Secretary Gassman applauded the artists who took the more 40 photographs on display in the first floor lobby of GEF 1 at 201 East Washington Avenue in Madison. The artists are: Tim Abler and Dick Blau, both of Milwaukee, David Heberlein of River Falls, John Shimon and Julie Lindemann, both of Manitowoc, and Jamie Young of Madison.

"The images on display not only picture the hardworking families of Wisconsin, but they reflect the talent of Wisconsin artists who took the photographs," Secretary Gassman said. "It's only fitting that their photographs are displayed in the main lobby of the building housing the state's labor department."

The art exhibit was developed in collaboration with the Wisconsin Arts Board as part of Wisconsin's Percent for Art Program. Established in 1980, the program ensures that art has a place in public buildings and settings.

Under the program administered by the Wisconsin Arts Board, a percentage of the total construction costs for new state building or renovation projects is designated for the commission or purchase of artwork. The GEF 1 building underwent a major renovation project in 2002, and \$38,400 was made available for art work.

Department of Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha joined Secretary Gassman for the unveiling ceremony, one of many events in observance of Workforce Development Month. GEF 1 also houses the new Department of Children and Families.