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Secretary Gassman Introduces Milwaukee Area Job Seekers to Wisconsin's New Internet Employment Site

Free, interactive site has improvements for job seekers and employers

MILWAUKEE – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today introduced the state's new job connection Internet site, JobCenterofWisconsin.com, to Milwaukee area job seekers.

"We need an employment and training system for the 21st century, and this new, interactive site will serve as a portal to employment opportunities and jobs of the future," Secretary Gassman said. "This free, interactive site is accessible around the clock. Job seekers, from young people in the community to older workers, can post resumes and search for work. Employers can search the site for workers with the skills and abilities they need."

In a visit to the offices of the Milwaukee Urban League at 435 W. North Avenue, Secretary Gassman met with job seekers and provided a hands-on demonstration of the site. She is touring the state to make more employers and job seekers aware of the new website, developed as part of Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin plan to link Wisconsin employers with anyone looking for a job.

"We need a strong, growing Milwaukee economy for Wisconsin to thrive," Secretary Gassman said. "While the national economy is having an impact on all states, good jobs are available in Wisconsin for people with the right skills or the ability to learn those skills. In these times, we need to do everything we can to help people connect with jobs, especially here in Milwaukee. The new Job Center of Wisconsin site is for everyone, whether you have years of job experience or are just starting out, whether you have an advanced degree or are just graduating from high school."

Job seekers can access the JobCenterOfWisconsin.com site and explore job opportunities from their home computers or at Job Centers, libraries or any other places with public Internet access, such as the Urban League.

"With a majority of our skilled workforce expected to retire in the next 10 years, it is important that we connect the 700,000 workers who are unemployed or underemployed in Wisconsin with the training and technology they need to be able to fill the jobs of our Wisconsin employers," Secretary Gassman said. "This site makes it easy and convenient."

JobCenterofWisconsin.com replaces the state's JobNet system, which was created in 1993 and has become out-dated. In 2007 DWD and Governor Doyle's Council on Workforce Investment initiated a pilot site operated by the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and its partners. DWD further improved the site's function and design with the assistance of job seeker and employer feedback sessions.

Among the most significant improvements from the state's JobNet site:

- An easy, fill-in-the-blank feature helps job seekers create professional-looking resumes that can be saved, emailed or printed;
- Users may keep resumes confidential or make them available for search by employers;
- Employers can search for skilled employees through key search terms;
- Job seekers can find a list of job fairs and other employment and training events in their area;
- A toll-free help number connects callers with trained staff who can provide assistance and information about employment and training; and
- The site has a user-friendly design with simple navigation.

A second round of upgrades will be added in December, including workshop sign-ups; wage, job trend and career information; and simplified methods for employers to save job postings. Users will also be able to view short demonstration videos that describe various careers.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is charged with strengthening Wisconsin's workforce. DWD provides training and employment assistance to job seekers; enforces worker's rights; administers the state's unemployment insurance, apprenticeship, and worker's compensation programs; and works with employers to find appropriate job candidates.

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Photo URL Link: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2008/jcw_homepage.jpg

Caption:

JobCenterOfWisconsin.com, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's new Internet employment site, is colorful, easy to navigate and user-friendly with improved capabilities for both employers and job seekers.

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