

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@d wd.wisconsin.gov



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
Roberta Gassman, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2009/091124_ya_generac.pdf

Secretary Gassman Highlights Youth Apprenticeship, Wisconsin's Pathway for Skilled Workers of Tomorrow

***School-to-work program big plus for students, whether bound for four-year college,
technical college or Adult Apprenticeships***

EAGLE – During a visit to Generac Power Systems in Eagle today, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said Governor Doyle's investments in Youth Apprenticeship are providing more opportunities for all high school students to explore rewarding careers.

"In challenging times, Youth Apprenticeship can give students a big advantage after high school, whether they want to pursue a four-year college degree, technical college credentials, or a skilled trade," Secretary Gassman said. "Whatever their path, they are better prepared and more apt to succeed."

Secretary Gassman said nearly 9 out of 10 Youth Apprenticeship graduates receive job offers from their employers when they graduate from high school. Many accept the job offers, working part time in some instances while they continue their education. About 8 of 10 go on to a four-year college or technical college, and they generally outperform their peers. The program is also very popular with employers; virtually every one of them highly recommends the program.

"Youth Apprenticeship is one of our most popular, successful training programs," Secretary Gassman said. "For Governor Doyle, this is a solid investment in our future. That's why he doubled Youth Apprenticeship funding two years ago, providing over \$2 million a year. Now more students can gain valuable work experience and jobs skills, as they earn a pay check and explore career options."

More than 12,800 individuals are graduates of the Youth Apprenticeship program in Wisconsin. Many of them today serve as mentors or instructors for the next generation of workers. Currently 2,000 students are enrolled in 24 programs, including manufacturing, health care, agriculture, biotechnology, information technology, auto technician, drafting and engineering. About half of the students are female, and 12 percent are minorities. The partnership includes 1,280 employers and 308 school districts.

During her visit to Generac, Secretary Gassman met four students learning skills in advanced manufacturing while building electrical generators. The Waukesha County Youth Apprenticeship consortia is funded in part with a nearly \$108,000 DWD grant this year. The Waukesha partnership currently serves more than 110 apprentices.

Earlier in the day, she visited another Youth Apprenticeship partner, the Crave Brothers Dairy Farm near Waterloo. Site of 2009 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, the modern farm is known for its award-winning cheese, as well as innovations in green energy. An anaerobic digester turns waste into methane gas, enough to generate electricity for the farm, cheese factory and 120 homes. DWD awarded a nearly \$100,000 grant to the Jefferson County Youth Apprenticeship consortia, which serves approximately 80 apprentices.

Information about Youth Apprenticeship is available at: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/youthapprenticeship/>.

SEC-7792-E (R. 07/16/2009)

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