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Secretary Gassman: Wisconsin Poised to Expand under Governor Doyle's Agenda for Job Growth, Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing

State Labor Secretary visits high tech training lab, meets workers of tomorrow

SUPERIOR – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said today Wisconsin is poised for growth under Governor Doyle's bold agenda to create jobs and lead the way in clean energy technology and advanced manufacturing.

"For Governor Doyle, nothing is more important now than helping our businesses create jobs and giving our workers opportunities to get those jobs," Secretary Gassman said. "The agenda he set in his State of the State address shows the way. The jobs of tomorrow are in clean energy and high-end manufacturing. Wisconsin is poised for growth."

During a visit to Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC), Secretary Gasman listed the job growth proposals Governor Doyle offered in his address Tuesday evening. The job creating agenda includes:

- **Clean Energy Jobs Act**, a comprehensive package that will create 15,000 jobs in construction and manufacturing by 2025 while helping Wisconsin gain its energy independence by increasing efficiency and conservation efforts and using more renewable energy. Wisconsin currently spends \$16 billion per year on imported energy to heat homes and fuel cars and trucks.
- **Wisconsin Green to Gold Fund**, a \$100 million revolving loan fund for manufacturers, helping them reduce their energy costs and create jobs. This will help small and mid-sized manufacturers enter the clean energy economy. Many value sustainability, but lack the capital to implement efficiency and renewable energy measures. The Governor will also invest \$1.75 million through the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help small and mid-sized manufacturers use sustainable practices to give them a competitive edge.
- **Wisconsin CORE Jobs Act**, legislation to provide millions in tax credits for angel and venture capital investments, and fund additional training for workers. For example, it calls for \$1.5 million a year to be distributed to technical college district boards for advanced manufacturing skill training. Introduced by two lawmakers, the bill would expand the Governor's Accelerate Wisconsin plan.
- **Dairy Modernization Tax Credit**, a critical measure for hard-pressed dairy farmers. The Governor called on the Legislature to extend the expired dairy modernization tax credit to help dairy farmers invest in their operations.
- **Food Processing Modernization Tax Credit**, similar to dairy and livestock industry investment tax credits, this would help the food processing companies cut costs, invest in new technologies, save energy and create jobs.

To help businesses create jobs and get people back to work, Governor Doyle has created some of the strongest economic development tools in the country. His efforts have helped bring businesses and thousands of new jobs to communities throughout Wisconsin.

Secretary Gassman addressed students and faculty, then toured a high-tech lab where students, including dislocated workers, are training for jobs in advanced manufacturing. While at WITC, she also learned about the college's new programs in energy efficiency and renewable fuels.