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Governor Doyle Announces \$4.55 Million Investment in Worker Training

Also Announces \$445,000 Industry Partnership Grant for Milwaukee Workforce Training

MILWAUKEE – Governor Jim Doyle today announced \$4.55 million in federal Workforce Investment Act funding for programs that will prepare Wisconsin workers and employers to compete in the future economy. The Department of Workforce Development will work with workforce development boards, employers, unions, and technical colleges across the state to train workers to meet the changing needs of the state's industries and workforce.

"The \$4.55 million in federal funding will build on our strengths and help us take Wisconsin's incredible workforce to the next level," Governor Doyle said. "This funding builds on our hard work over the last seven and a half years to provide targeted, strategic support to our industries and workers through Grow Wisconsin and other efforts."

The \$4.55 million in Workforce Investment Act funding will help thousands of workers gain skills to succeed in forward-looking jobs. The funding will build on the \$5.89 million in Workforce Investment grants Governor Doyle announced last year – representing a \$10 million total investment. Approximately 33,000 workers received training last year through the funding, which was boosted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Workforce Investment Act funding will also be used for:

- **\$3 million for Industry Partnership Grants.** The new approach to worker training, which Governor Doyle announced last year, works closely with employers to train workers in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, construction and health care.
- **\$350,000 for Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification.** The funding will support training grants and encourage production workers to gain advanced certification.
- **\$500,000 for Opportunity Grants.** These grants will help low-wage workers with no education or training beyond high school. The grants will let them improve their skills at technical colleges with short-term training that is not covered by financial aid. With the grants, low-wage workers can take steps to earn certificates or degrees and pursue career pathways to better jobs in advanced manufacturing, health care, biotechnology and other high-demand sectors.

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- **\$100,000 for Skills Jump Start Grants.** The grants will help individuals who lack a high school diploma. They can complete their basic education and, at the same time, receive job training at technical colleges for employment in high-demand sectors, such as manufacturing and health care.
- **\$300,000 for Apprenticeship Health Care Expansions.** This funding will support pilot projects to build career pathways and prepare skilled long-term care workers.
- **\$300,000 for Entrepreneurial Training.** The funding will help customize a training and technical assistance program for dislocated workers to explore developing a business plan and starting their own business.

As part of the \$10 million workforce investment, today Governor Doyle also awarded a \$444,961 Industry Partnership Training and Partnership Support Award to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB). The Milwaukee workforce board will collaborate with Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP and union partners to train and place, retain or advance 345 workers across five trades: sheet metal, bricklayers, laborers, carpenters and painters. These workers will gain critical skills to meet the growing need for energy efficiency construction.

Additionally, the Governor today awarded \$97,819 in Wisconsin Industry Partnership grants to five regional workforce development boards. The workforce investment boards will use the funding to seek new opportunities for Wisconsin workers to take advantage of clean energy training through the \$6 million Wisconsin Sector Alliance for the Green Economy (SAGE) grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The regional workforce boards will collaborate with energy industry leaders, technical colleges and others to find innovative ways to get more workers trained through this program.

The following organizations received planning grants:

- Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board in Ashland – \$25,000;
- West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board in Menomonie – \$25,000;
- Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (in collaboration with the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Counties and the Southeast Tri-County Workforce Boards) – \$25,000;
- North Central Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board in Wisconsin Rapids – \$13,000; and
- Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board in La Crosse – \$9,819.