

**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@dwd.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov)



---

Thursday, July 15, 2010  
CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753  
On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **DWD Secretary Gassman: Recovery Act Dollars Preparing Unemployed Workers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Labor Market**

### ***In Racine County, State Labor Secretary Highlights Reemployment Services for Workers***

BURLINGTON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said today that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is helping put Wisconsin back to work by helping to prepare unemployed workers for skilled jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“Thanks to the Recovery Act, thousands of unemployed workers across the state are receiving intensive reemployment services to help them get back into the workplace and advance Wisconsin’s economic recovery,” Secretary Gassman said. “Helping unemployed workers gain the skills they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century labor market will be critical as our state continues its recovery from the worst national economic downturn since the Great Depression.”

During a visit to the Gateway Technical College’s Burlington Center, Secretary Gassman highlighted the Reemployment Services (RES) program, a collaboration between DWD’s Job Service and Unemployment Insurance staff to provide unemployed workers with intensive services to help them reenter the workforce. The federal government gave a boost to the RES program in 2009 with \$7.2 million in ARRA funding, along with another \$3.8 million in ARRA funds directed from DWD’s Unemployment Insurance program.

Recovery Act funding has allowed DWD to conduct up to 90 RES sessions each week across Wisconsin, including a session at the Burlington Center, where Secretary Gassman visited and spoke with participants. The RES sessions include intensive skills assessment through a WorkKeys system. Those who successfully complete WorkKeys receive a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), demonstrating their skills to potential employers. RES sessions also provide work-readiness and job-search assistance.

Since the ARRA funding became available a year ago, more than 38,400 individuals have been served in over 4,200 RES sessions. Over 20,400 Unemployment Insurance claimants have enrolled in these sessions, with over 1,300 individuals passing WorkKeys tests and nearly 400 receiving NCRC credentials.

“On behalf of Governor Doyle, I thank President Obama and members of our Congressional delegation for ARRA funding and the help it provides in putting Wisconsin back to work,” Secretary Gassman said. “Here in Wisconsin, Reemployment Services are one way in which ARRA dollars are doing just that.”

###