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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **Secretary Gassman Announces \$151,830 Industry Partnership Training Grant to Strengthen North Central Transportation Sector**

### ***During 'Up North' Tour, State Labor Secretary cites job opportunities***

ANTIGO – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced a \$151,830 Wisconsin Industry Partnership grant to train workers for the north central region's transportation sector that is expected to add more than 250 jobs by 2014.

"A strong, transportation industry is essential to economic growth," Secretary Gassman said. "This training grant is another example of Governor Doyle's strategic investments that are helping businesses create jobs and providing opportunities for workers to get those jobs."

Secretary Gassman awarded the grant to the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, DWD's regional partner which proposed the Transportation Supportive Workforce project. The board worked with seven employers in the transportation sector to develop the project. With \$192,752 in local matching resources, funding for the project will total more than \$344,500. The Northcentral Technical College (NTC), another key partner, will provide training for workers and job seekers in the transportation sector.

Through the grant, current workers and unemployed or underemployed individuals will receive training in the logistics of shipping and receiving, transportation dispatch and warehouse management. The 12-month project will include a 9-credit, short-term training certificate, opening a pathway to technical college degrees and career opportunities.

In seeking the grant, the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and its partners estimate the transportation sector will add 254 jobs by 2014. Such jobs include freight agents, shipping and receiving clerks, first-line supervisors, and warehouse managers and equipment operators. The average hourly wage of the selected occupations is \$16 and can reach as high as \$28 for supervisors and \$31 for logisticians.

Secretary Gassman announced the grant during a visit to NTC's East Campus in Antigo as part of Governor Doyle's "Up North" Tour. Governor Doyle launched the Industry Partnership program early last year with nearly \$3 million. Last month, he provided another \$3 million for the program, which represents an innovative approach to training that involves area employers, labor unions, workforce development agencies, economic development agencies, technical colleges, K-12 schools, and University of Wisconsin institutions.

For more information about Wisconsin Industry Partnership: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/industry\\_partnerships/](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/industry_partnerships/)