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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

DWD Reaches Milestone in Hiring Veterans, Continues to Demonstrate Leadership in Supporting Those Who Have Served Our Nation

DWD Also Presented with National American Legion Award During Recent Conference

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that DWD is hiring seven veterans this week, bringing the agency's total number of veteran over 100 since early last year. The hires further underscore the agency's continued commitment to those who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

"At the Department of Workforce Development, we have excellent programs for veterans, and we are committed to doing all that we can to help them succeed in return for what they have sacrificed for us," Secretary Gassman said. "On behalf of Governor Doyle, we thank them for their service to our state and nation."

Since March 2009, DWD has hired 105 veterans, including 95 special disabled veterans, to help provide employment and training services to other veterans. Last year alone, DWD provided 8,000 veterans with employment and training services. The agency achieved a 60 percent job placement rate for veterans in search of employment, with placements at locations such as the Oshkosh Corporation and the Oak Creek Power Plant.

These achievements were made possible in part through a \$553,000 federal grant Wisconsin received in fall 2009 to provide employment and training assistance to members of the Wisconsin National Guard returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and other veterans searching for work. DWD has undertaken other efforts, such as holding 21 veterans' job fairs in communities across Wisconsin in 2010, and the identification of 260 job-ready disabled veterans for placement in various state agencies. Much of the work has been accomplished through DWD's Office of Veteran Services.

DWD has garnered several awards for its work with disabled veterans, including the national Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons, which was presented earlier this month to DWD as an employer of the disabled at the 92nd Annual American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee. In addition, DWD's Division of Employment and Training this year received an award from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Wisconsin in the "large employer" category. Several DWD staff members also have been individually recognized by the DAV and American Legion.

"At the Department of Workforce Development, we have excellent programs for veterans, and we are committed to doing all that we can to help them succeed in return for what they have sacrificed for us," Secretary Gassman said. "On behalf of Governor Doyle, we are grateful for the American Legion's recognition and support for our agency's commitment to veterans."