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

## Secretary Gassman Announces Over \$1 Million in Grants to Train Workers in Key Industries in Southeastern Wisconsin

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced five Industry Partnership grants totaling over \$1 million to train over 1,600 workers in southeastern Wisconsin for careers in advanced manufacturing, power controls, health care, clean energy and the hospitality industry.

“These grants continue Governor Doyle’s commitment to work with employers and other workforce partners to build the skills of workers and grow the economy in southeastern Wisconsin,” Secretary Gassman said. “These strategic investments represent a win-win for working families, employers and communities across the region.”

The grants are part of Governor Doyle’s \$6 million Industry Partnership program that works with area employers, labor unions, workforce development and economic development agencies, technical colleges, K-12 schools, and University of Wisconsin institutions to fund the particular skills that regional employers need.

DWD’s regional partner, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, will administer funds to support the following initiatives:

- **\$349,953 for health care training:** The funds will be used to support training through the *CareerWorks* Healthcare Training Center, a one-stop shop for Milwaukee-area health care workers looking to advance beyond entry-level jobs, along with the *Healthcare Training Fund*, which will support individualized, employer-led training in the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington County region. This initiative focuses on entry-level workers including certified nursing assistants and community health workers, with the goal of advancing individuals to higher level careers such as licensed practical nursing, which has a median hourly wage of \$21 in the Milwaukee 7 region. Partners include the Milwaukee Area Healthcare Alliance, YWCA, Milwaukee Area Health Education Center and over a dozen area health care employers, such as Aurora Health Care, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare and Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital, Inc.
- **\$42,967 in additional funding for construction jobs in clean energy:** The funds will support basic skills training for an additional 30 workers to expand upon the Milwaukee Area Investment Board’s and partner Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP’s \$444,962 initiative to train over 300 workers for jobs in the clean energy construction industry. The initiative will provide training for Milwaukee Builds participants from pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship. It will coordinate with the Sector Alliance for the Green Economy (SAGE), a \$6 million initiative funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at the direction of Governor Doyle to “green up” the state’s apprenticeship program.

(more)

- **\$25,000 to assess workforce needs among retail, hospitality and tourism industry employers:** The initiative will bring together business leaders, educators and other regional stakeholders to identify workforce needs for retail, hospitality and tourism. The purpose is to focus on jobs ranging from entry-level retail through sales representatives, who may earn a median hourly pay of nearly \$30. The group will operate through the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board's *CareerWorks* model. The grant will also support the creation of an industry advisory board and an industry symposium to bring employers together for training needs assessments, sharing best practices and other activities. Participating employers include The Marcus Corporation, Bayshore Town Center and Lake Express.

The Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Investment Board, another DWD regional partner, will administer funds to advance the following initiatives:

- **\$406,220 for advanced manufacturing industry training:** Through a partnership with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, over 1,400 currently employed and dislocated workers in the Milwaukee 7 region will receive training in computer numerical control (CNC), quality control and machining. Through the training, workers will be able to retain jobs, advance to higher level positions or be recalled back to work. Employer partners include Pure Power Technologies, Harley Davidson, Master Lock, Milwaukee Gear, GE Healthcare, Waukesha Engine/Dresser and Spincraft. Other partners include the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, Southeast Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, and Waukesha County Technical College.
- **\$250,506 for power controls manufacturing:** The initiative will support training for 125 workers in the power controls manufacturing industry, which covers switches, gears, computerized power management systems, and other devices that manage and store energy. Waukesha County Technical College will offer coursework in electric power, work practices and workplace skills, basic blueprint reading, and math. The partnership includes employers such as DRS Technologies Corporation, Waukesha Electric, Helios USA LLC, ZBB Energy Corporation and Ingeteam.

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