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## Secretary Perez: Over 1,800 Wisconsinites Enhance Job Skills Through Employment Readiness Training Program

### *Workers demonstrate job skill mastery through national initiative available at no charge*

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Manny Perez today announced that over 1,800 Wisconsin residents have earned credentials through the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program offered by Job Service of Wisconsin. NCRC is a nationally-recognized training and certificate program helping individuals demonstrate their mastery of basic workplace skills.

“In the ever-changing workplace, workers need show they have basic skills that will help them succeed in a variety of work settings,” Secretary Perez said. “Hundreds of Wisconsinites, both currently employed and seeking new opportunities, have taken advantage of this recognized credentialing program to sharpen or demonstrate mastery of essential workplace skills. Collectively, this effort is reflective of the high quality that Wisconsin’s workforce offers to companies looking to stay in or relocate to Wisconsin, which is in line with Governor Walker’s message to the private sector that Wisconsin is open for business.”

The NCRC certification demonstrates that an individual has a broad base of workplace employability skills, including reading, math, and information gathering – three skills deemed highly important to success in a majority of jobs nationwide. Participants can build skills and measure progress by earning a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum certificate, depending on their level of achievement.

The Department of Workforce Development makes the NCRC program available at no charge to job seekers who enroll through Wisconsin Job Service, as well as to employers that contact Job Service in search of additional tools to assess prospective new hires and improve their recruitment processes.

To earn their NCRC credential, job seekers work on-line and then take the three WorkKeys tests at local Job Centers and other specified locations. Since October 2009, when the testing went statewide, a total of 1,866 individuals have earned credentials at different levels. This includes 275 Bronze, 805 Silver, 750 Gold and 56 Platinum certificates. Those who complete the program receive a certificate signed by Governor Walker.

“With Wisconsin entering the seasonal hiring cycle and some 27,000 jobs posted on [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com), this is a great opportunity for jobseekers to pursue new opportunities,” Secretary Perez said. “The NCRC will give individuals a chance to demonstrate they can help employers maximize operational effectiveness and will embrace lifelong learning, which will make them stand out.”

The testing service is funded in part by \$7 million of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds Wisconsin received for Re-employment Services (RES). Since July 2009, RES has served more than 50,750 Wisconsinites receiving Unemployment Insurance through a variety of programs.

Job seekers can learn more about NCRC at [www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/ncrc/jobseeker](http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/ncrc/jobseeker) or by calling 1-888-258-9966. Employers can learn more about the benefits of NCRC at [www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/ncrc/employer](http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/ncrc/employer).