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Secretary Baumbach Congratulates Milwaukee Youth Completing Summer Jobs Program Funded with \$422,400 State Grant

At Resource Fair, State Labor Secretary urges youth to build on work experience, explore career options as business-friendly Wisconsin encourages job creation

MILWAUKEE – At a Resource Fair for Youth today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach congratulated Milwaukee youth who completed a summer jobs program funded in part with a \$422,400 state grant.

“The \$3.6 billion deficit we faced in January required tough choices, but we managed to provide Milwaukee youth summer with job opportunities,” Secretary Baumbach said. “The fiscally responsible budget Governor Walker signed included over \$420,000 for a Milwaukee summer jobs program, and today I applaud the youth who successfully completed the program.”

Shortly after Governor Walker signed the budget, Secretary Baumbach awarded a \$422,400 grant to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB). The state and local partnership resulted in part-time employment for approximately 1,000 youth.

“The job skills and experience these youth gained will serve them well in the future, providing them an advantage in competing for jobs being created in Wisconsin’s more business friendly environment,” Secretary Baumbach said.

Secretary Baumbach said the latest employment figures show Wisconsin has added 28,700 new jobs so far this year, including 15,000 manufacturing jobs. Job openings on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com have surpassed a record 34,000 postings statewide.

“They learned what it takes to succeed in the world of work, basic skills such as arriving for work on time, working effectively as a team, and problem solving,” Secretary Baumbach said. “The resource fair caps their experience, providing these works of tomorrow an opportunity to consider their options and explore the next steps down a career path.”

The state funded grant was for MAWIB’s Earn & Learn Program. Individuals between 14 and 21 years of age, Milwaukee County residents and eligible to work in the United States, applied through MAWIB for part-time jobs either with local government agencies or participating private employers and faith-based groups.

Youth workers earned \$7.50 per hour, working up to 20 hours a week for as many as six weeks. Team leaders earned \$7.75 per hour, working up to 30 hours a week during the six-week period.