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Deputy Secretary Newson Commends Workforce Partners on Videoconference System Enhancements

DWD Deputy Secretary Delivers Opening at “Kick-Start Your Career” Workshop to Help Commemorate Workforce Development Month in Wisconsin

MADISON – During a special welcome to start a statewide videoconference workshop for jobseekers made possible through a unique workforce system partnership, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Deputy Secretary Reggie Newson today re-emphasized the importance of innovation in creating opportunities to support getting Wisconsin working again.

“When job seekers have access to training and other resources, they have an edge in seeking out new employment opportunities,” said Deputy Secretary Newson, who addressed the workshop on behalf of DWD Secretary Scott Baumbach. “At the DWD, we applaud the state and regional partners who came together to pursue this videoconferencing project, which will help bring these resources to jobseekers across the state in an efficient and effective manner.”

Deputy Secretary Newson addressed participants of the “Kick-Start Your Career” workshop for jobseekers, which was hosted via videoconference by the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA) in 16 Job Center sites across the state. The workshop was designed to help job seekers rev up their current job search and explore career and educational options. It was one of many events being held around the state to commemorate September as Workforce Development Month in Wisconsin.

“During Workforce Development Month, we pay tribute to the many partners like the Workforce Development Boards for their innovation as we work together to make Wisconsin the workforce of choice,” Secretary Baumbach said.

The workshop marked the debut of a new interactive technology network made possible through \$710,000 in funding that WWDA, a workforce partner of the DWD, received in the 2009-11 state budget from the former Department of Commerce, now the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The funds were used to install 22 Badgernet videoconferencing sites across the state. Local Workforce Boards partially matched those funds and installed additional equipment in some locations to bring the total to 26.

WEDC CEO Paul Jadin said the new technology will help deliver more assistance to jobseekers and employers, thus promoting job creation and economic growth.

“This technology is aimed at giving jobseekers an advantage they want and need to successfully obtain employment that is available,” WEDC CEO Jadin said.

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The new video conferencing equipment complemented the existing seven sites that the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin was already operating for a grand total of 33 Job Center video conferencing sites statewide. The equipment allows for more effective and efficient training, allowing a trainer in one city to simultaneously assist dozens of job seekers in multiple locations throughout the state.

Mari Kay-Nabozny, Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc., and Chief Information Officer of the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA), said: "Video conferencing is on the cutting edge of high tech job training and re-employment services. The launch of this new system provides greater access to events and offerings for individuals in rural and urban areas. WWDA is committed to re-employing job seekers quickly, and the video conferencing system is one of the tools that allow us to do so."

To access the workshop schedule visit www.wwdaanytime.com.