
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Secretary Newson: Marathon Electric Sets Leading Example in Providing Veterans Employment Opportunities

State Labor Secretary commends employer for strong commitment, employing 56 veterans

WAUSAU – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today visited Marathon Electric, a subsidiary of Regal Beloit Corporation, where he praised the employer for setting an example in providing employment opportunities for veterans who served our country.

“DWD is proud to partner with Marathon Electric in serving the brave men and women who served our country,” Secretary Newson said. “Marathon Electric has worked closely with our Office of Veterans Employment Services to provide good, family-supporting jobs. On behalf of Governor Walker, I commend Marathon Electric for employing our veterans and thank the veterans for the sacrifices they have made in serving our country.”

Secretary Newson noted roughly 10 percent of Marathon Electric’s employees are veterans and that the company has been honored by veterans’ organizations for its exemplary record, in particular the employment of disabled veterans. He said the partnership with Marathon Electric represents the continuing efforts of DWD, its partners and employers to serve veterans.

“DWD works with thousands of veterans each year, including those returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, to match the skills they’ve learned during their service with the thousands of available jobs found on www.JobCenterOfWisconsin.com,” Secretary Newson said.

The staff of 34 veterans at DWD Office of Veterans Employment Services works in area job centers to provide veterans employment and training services, as well as work with employers to provide veterans employment opportunities.

DWD’s Office of Veterans Employment Services hosted a number of successful job fairs this year throughout the state, including a fair held in Rothschild in conjunction with Congressman Sean Duffy that drew over 100 employers. This year, DWD joined in sponsoring a “Veterans in Piping” program that is among the first of its kind in the country. Veterans attend a 20-week pre-apprenticeship training program in welding. Graduates continue apprenticeship training to achieve journeyworker status with a job guaranteed in the piping industry.

With approximately 1,600 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provide training and employment services to workers, enforce workers’ rights, and administer Unemployment Insurance and Worker’s Compensation programs.

For more information on DWD Office of Veterans Services: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/>