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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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Secretary Newson Announces \$3.39 Million to Continue Employment and Training Services for 2,500 Dislocated Workers Statewide

Final Award in a \$12.4 Million National Emergency Grant, largest awarded to Wisconsin

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson announced today \$3.39 million in federal funding to continue employment and training services for approximately 2,500 dislocated workers statewide.

“Under Governor Walker’s leadership, we are committed to get Wisconsin working again, and these funds will help us empower dislocated workers who were laid off during the recession,” Secretary Newson said. “The employment and training services they receive will help prepare them for the good jobs we are working to create and maintain in a more business friendly environment.”

In announcing the grant, Secretary Newson cited a new Manpower Inc., survey of employers that shows increasing job opportunities in the new year. The results of the national survey were described as “the most promising hiring outlook” since the quarter just prior to the recession. Steady job growth is forecast for Wisconsin.

Secretary Newson also noted nearly 32,000 employment opportunities available now on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, DWD’s free, online employment site. Employers have been posting job openings on the site in unprecedented numbers this year.

The \$3.39 million in federal funding is the third and final payment of an NEG grant awarded last year. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded a grant of up to \$13.6 million in March of 2010, the largest NEG grant Wisconsin has received.

The NEG funds were awarded to help DWD and its regional partners provide employment and training services to over 2,800 dislocated workers in 62 counties. The remaining counties are in the Green Bay area, where dislocated workers benefited from an earlier NEG grant of \$3.4 million.

The DOL made an initial payment of \$5 million and another amounting to \$3.9 million in March of this year. With the final payment announced today, \$12.4 million has been provided to assist about 2,500 workers displaced by 79 companies across the state.