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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

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DWD Secretary Newson: Companies Lining Up for W3 Program

At visit to GenMet Corporation, Secretary also thanks GenMet for participating in May 10 career expo

MEQUON - Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today toured GenMet Corporation of Mequon, one of the companies eager to take part in the new Wisconsin Workers Win (W3) pilot program to match unemployed individuals with six-week training placements that will prepare them for the workplace and may result in full-time employment.

"The W3 program is an innovative program that will provide an opportunity for state residents to train and gain skills with the end goal of full-time employment," Secretary Newson said. "This program is one part of Governor Walker's 'Wisconsin Working' plan to connect job seekers to jobs as our state's economy improves under his leadership."

The program enables Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants to participate in a limited-term training placement at an employer. The program will be open to residents on a pilot basis in three workforce development areas in Wisconsin and will serve approximately 500 state residents. In addition to receiving UI benefits, participating trainees will receive a \$75 weekly stipend to defray costs associated with participating in training. The stipend and continued UI benefits will save costs for participating employers that would otherwise compensate trainees with wages during the training period.

"As an employer in Wisconsin, this program will help to ensure that we can find the workers we need to prosper as a business," said Mary Isbister, President of GenMet Corporation who also is Vice Chair of the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment. "Our biggest concern as a company is finding qualified employees. Under the Wisconsin Workers Win program, we look forward to providing training opportunities to those interested in a career in manufacturing and filling current job openings with quality Wisconsin workers."

Legislation creating the program was co-authored by Rep. Mark Honadel of South Milwaukee and Sen. Van Wanggaard of Racine. The legislation passed both houses of the legislature unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Walker as 2011 Act 123. DWD expects to begin formally soliciting employers and UI claimants over the next few months.

Those interested in participating in this program can visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wiworkerswin/default.htm> to learn more about the details of the program and to register interest.

(more)

Secretary Thanks GenMet for Career Expo Participation

During his visit to GenMet Corporation, Secretary Newson also recognized the company for signing up along with more than 50 other Milwaukee-area manufacturers for the 2012 Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at the Exposition Center at State Fair Park. He also urged job seekers to sign up today, noting employers have hundreds of job openings to fill.

“If you’re a job seeker looking for a new opportunity, sign up today for the Career Expo and meet manufacturers from the Milwaukee area that have jobs to fill,” Secretary Newson said. “This is a great chance to meet directly with employers and to demonstrate that you are work-ready.”

Milwaukee area manufacturers have until Monday, April 30, to register. They can access information and download the registration form from www.WisconsinCareerExpo.com.

Secretary Newson also stressed the importance of job seekers acting now to get the necessary admission ticket and avoiding a pre-registration rush the final days before the career expo. Information about the pre-registration process is available on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com. Registration takes three easy steps:

1. Visit www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, and either register with the DWD online employment site or, if already registered, update information as necessary;
2. Use the site’s “Job Seeker Tools” to create or update a resume, take a self assessment survey, save and print copies of both for the final step;
3. Complete a one-on-one session with an employment specialist, who will review the resume and assessment results and cover potential steps in the job application process before issuing an admission ticket. A list with times and locations to complete these sessions is available through www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com.