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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 26, 2012

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## **Secretary Newson: Wisconsin Moving Forward Under Governor Walker's Leadership; Employers Optimistic, Ready to Hire**

*Cites response to Manufacturing Career Expo, JobCenterofWisconsin.com listings*

MILWAUKEE – In remarks at two Milwaukee employer events today, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson described Wisconsin's economy as stable and poised for growth under Governor Walker's leadership, compared to substantial job losses prior to his administration.

"After three years of job losses exceeding 145,000, we're adding jobs," Secretary Newson said. "Since last December, Wisconsin has added more than 10,000 total nonfarm jobs and 15,000 private sector jobs, according to estimates from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Governor Walker has Wisconsin headed in the right direction, and it's evident on many fronts."

Secretary Newson said the enthusiastic response to the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo, set for May 10 at State Fair Park, reflects optimism and hiring plans employers have expressed in surveys by Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and Manpower. More than 50 employers with over 500 jobs available have registered for the opportunity to recruit from pre-screened, work-ready job seekers.

Among other signs of Wisconsin's stable, improving economy, he cited:

- Over 38,000 job openings statewide posted today on [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com), DWD's online employment site;
- Wisconsin's declining unemployment rate, 6.8 percent in March, the lowest rate since December 2008, a declining year-over-year rate described as "statistically significant," by the federal BLS;
- 18,500 more people working, and 24,700 fewer people unemployed compared to March 2011, also a 13.2 percent decrease in initial unemployment insurance claims so far this year;
- A 12.2 percent increase in new businesses during the first quarter compared to the same period a year ago; and,
- The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank's recent forecast of 1.95 percent economic growth for Wisconsin during the current six month period, the best forecast for Wisconsin since 2003.

Secretary Newson addressed the Menomonee Valley Business Association during a luncheon at the Ambassador Hotel. Later, he addressed the Spring Conference of the Metro Milwaukee Society for Human Resource Management at the Italian Conference Center.