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Secretary Newson Announces \$232,500 in Grants to Develop Workforce Strategies, Ensure Skilled Workers for Leading Industry Sectors

Ten regional partners receive grants to advance customized training in key sectors

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced \$232,500 in grants to ten regional workforce partners, funding their efforts to develop strategies and customized training programs meeting the needs for skilled workers in manufacturing, healthcare and other high-growth sectors.

“The grants are part of Governor Walker’s *Wisconsin Working* initiative, continuing the progress we are making to empower individuals, create employment opportunities and advance Wisconsin’s economy,” Secretary Newson said. “The funding serves to strengthen Wisconsin’s workforce, ensuring skilled workers in manufacturing, healthcare and other expanding sectors with good jobs to fill. The grants also strengthen our partnerships in regional workforce and economic development. We’re on the right course, moving forward.”

The sector based funding is a core element of Governor Walker’s *Wisconsin Working* initiative. The grants are intended to support regional efforts to meet the needs of an existing high-growth sector or an emerging sector. The grants fund such activities as building career ladders and promoting a sector’s image, for example, alerting high school students to rewarding careers in advanced, high-tech manufacturing. The funding also can be used to expand stakeholder groups, perform skills gap analysis, and develop customized training programs to meet workforce needs.

Three regional partners awarded \$25,000 grants and their targeted sectors are:

- South Central Workforce Development Board (WDB), Madison, manufacturing;
- Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington (WDB), Waukesha, manufacturing and healthcare, and
- Western WDB, La Crosse, manufacturing.

Seven regional partners awarded \$22,500 grants and their targeted sectors are:

- Bay Area WDB, Green Bay, manufacturing and healthcare;
- Milwaukee WDB, manufacturing;
- Northwest WDB, Ashland, manufacturing and healthcare;
- North Central WDB, Wausau, healthcare information technology;
- Southeast WDB, Kenosha, manufacturing;
- Southwest WDB, Platteville, agri-business/food processing with dairy emphasis, and
- West Central WDB, Menomonie, manufacturing, healthcare, customer service, and transportation/logistics.