
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 21, 2012

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: Workforce Agency Poised to Meet Employer Needs, Empower Individuals, Help Move Economy Forward

Governor Walker cabinet member highlights record, agenda in remarks to Wausau business, community leaders, first in series of workforce briefings around State of Wisconsin

WAUSAU – Citing Governor Walker’s “Wisconsin Working” plan, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said today Wisconsin is on track to meet employer workforce needs, get Wisconsin working and build on the economic progress made in nearly 18 months.

“At DWD, Governor Walker’s business friendly approach means working closely with employers, connecting them with workers they need to fill existing positions or jobs they are creating,” Secretary Newson said. “At the same time, we are working to empower individuals and get Wisconsin working, involving partners and stakeholders in that effort, so that together, we can build on the 31,000 private sector jobs added in Governor Walker’s first year.”

Secretary Newson addressed Wausau area business and community leaders at the first of eleven workforce development forums to advance Wisconsin’s economy. Competitive Wisconsin, Inc., has scheduled the workforce briefings around the state as part of its Be Bold 2 initiative. Similar sessions last year led in part to one of Governor Walker’s economic reforms, replacement of the Department of Commerce with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

Among the speakers joining Secretary Newson at the Competitive Wisconsin forum were Brenda Hicks-Sorenson, WEDC Vice President of Economic and Community Development and Jim Wood, President of Wood Communications Group and Strategic Council to Competitive Wisconsin.

“Like the forums last year, the Be Bold 2 initiative will help guide efforts to create a more effective, responsive and nimble workforce development system,” Secretary Newson said. “I welcome input from the Wausau community, and I look forward to hearing from other employers and stakeholders around the state on what we can do to help employers connect with workers and create family-supporting jobs.”

Under Governor Walker, DWD innovations include better customer service for employers and job seekers. Governor Walker’s ‘Wisconsin Working’ has improved collaboration between DWD, WEDC, and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans’ Affairs. DWD has been tasked with doubling the number of job fairs to over 100 and implementing the Wisconsin Workers Win (W3) workforce training program, passed unanimously by the legislature as 2011 Act 123.