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Secretary Newson, Lt. Governor Kleefisch Congratulate Latest Graduates of Pre-employment Training, Preparing Them for Manufacturing Jobs

New grads ready for jobs as CNC Machinists in Milwaukee area, six at Trace-A-Matic

PEWAUKEE – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today joined Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch in congratulating the latest graduates of a pre-employment training program preparing them for jobs as CNC Machinists, including six openings at Trace-A-Matic in Brookfield.

"Our Administration is implementing reforms to make it easier for small businesses to grow in Wisconsin," Lt. Governor Kleefisch said. "Governor Walker and I are focused on helping small businesses like Trace-A-Matic create jobs for families in Wisconsin."

Secretary Newson said the graduating class is the third this year and three more training sessions are planned. DWD is funding the collaborative effort involving the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP)/BIG STEP, Waukesha County Technical College, Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington Workforce Development Board and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, the manufacturing sector is adding jobs, and with this collaborative effort and other initiatives, we working to address the skills gap and meet their needs," Secretary Newson said. "These graduates are the latest to begin rewarding careers in manufacturing, an evolving sector offering family-supporting jobs in a clean, safe, high tech environment."

The latest employment data released Thursday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Wisconsin added more than 11,300 manufacturing jobs last year.

In all, 11 individuals, 22 to 55 years old, all unemployed, completed the eight weeks of training at Waukesha County Technical College. Trace-A-Matic has interviewed and hired six, who will earn a starting wage of \$14.25 an hour working second shift and continuing their training on the job at the precision machine shop.

"These programs are essential to the growth of our manufacturing base here in Wisconsin," said Ed Graunke, Operations Manager at Trace-A-Matic. "We are thankful to our state for providing the funding and opportunity to participate in such a program."

Manufacturing jobs consistently top the list of openings posted on <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>. Machinists are in great demand statewide and the Milwaukee metro area. Nearly 200 machinist jobs are available in the Milwaukee 7 region. The average annual salary of machinists in the metro Milwaukee is approximately \$43,000.

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In a visit to Trace-A-Matic earlier this year, Governor Walker announced the manufacturer was eligible for \$300,000 in tax credits through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Trace-A-Matic is expanding and plans to add 35 jobs.

“The success of this project begins with listening to industry and understand their workforce needs,” said Earl Buford, Executive Director of WRTP-BIG STEP. “We can build effective public and private partnerships that position businesses for growth and job creation, and get residents in our community back to work.”

Secretary Newson said Governor Walker’s “Wisconsin Working” plan will keep Wisconsin moving forward. To meet the current workforce needs of manufacturers and other employers, DWD is taking the following “Wisconsin Working” steps:

- Doubling the number of job fairs in 2012 by holding at least 100 throughout the state.
- Expanding re-employment services by hiring 14 additional DWD staff to help people receiving unemployment benefits return to work quicker.
- Strengthening its partnership with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in working with employers expanding operations in Wisconsin.