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## **Deputy Secretary Barry Highlights Job Placement Success for Veterans**

*During Superior Job Center visit, also cites veterans employment initiatives that took effect July 1*

SUPERIOR – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Deputy Secretary Jonathan Barry highlighted successful partnerships with employers in hiring veterans during a visit today at the Superior Job Center.

“In keeping with Governor Scott Walker’s Year of the Veteran proclamation, we are working to connect veterans and local employers, building on our success in 2011,” Deputy Secretary Barry said. “Veterans are working today in jobs with good pay and benefits. We have more work to do, for veterans and all job seekers, as we follow Governor Walker’s Wisconsin Working plan to move the economy forward. But we take pride in our success thus far, thanks to employers providing opportunities and our staff connecting veterans to jobs.”

Deputy Secretary Barry cited several new initiatives that took effect July 1, 2012, under Governor Walker’s “Wisconsin Working” agenda. They include:

- 2011 Wisconsin Act 209 – creates the Veterans Professional/Occupational Licensure Fee Waiver Program requiring WDVA to establish and maintain a program in which 13 state agencies grant fee waivers to qualified veterans when issuing initial licenses.
- Wisconsin Act 120 - enables veterans to request consideration of their military training, education and experience to satisfy licensure requirements.
- Wisconsin Act 210 – provides reciprocal occupational credentials to the spouse of a service member who has been assigned to Wisconsin. It also updates requirements for license extension or renewal for service members on active duty.

A new WDVA web page at <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-FeeWaiver.asp> offers more details about the program and how veterans can apply.

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson stated: “Thanks to the new initiatives signed by Governor Walker, Wisconsin’s veterans will have additional support in their pursuit of new employment opportunities. These brave men and women have done so much to protect our nation’s freedom, and connecting them to new job opportunities is one way we can show our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made.”

WDVA Secretary John Scocos added: “Connecting veterans with jobs and removing obstacles to employment for veterans and their spouses is our top priority. Through veteran-specific career fairs, listening sessions and other outreach initiatives, we are addressing the unique challenges veterans have to finding employment.”

DWD has Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff in comprehensive Job Centers and additional outreach locations throughout Wisconsin who are ready to assist all veterans with their employment search and serve as a resource for all veteran benefit programs.

(more)

During his visit to the Superior Job Center, Deputy Secretary Barry met with Tom Casey, a DWD Office of Veterans Services representative at the center. Of veterans he assisted last year, 30 reported finding work, such as a veteran hired by Minnesota Power as a truck driver for over \$21 an hour; another hired by Genesis Attachments as a machinist at \$20 an hour; and a third hired by Canadian Pacific Railway as a conductor trainee with a salary of up to \$60,000 a year. A fourth veteran completed Veterans In Piping, the pre-apprenticeship training initiative at Camp Williams in partnership with the piping industry. The veteran is now with the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union Local 601 in Madison, earning more than \$20 an hour.

In addition to declaring 2012 Year of the Veteran, Governor Walker directed DWD to join the Department of Veterans Affairs in holding 16 job fairs for veterans this year.

*For more information:* <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/>  
<http://yearoftheveteran.com/>