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Thursday, August 23, 2012

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## **Secretary Newson Announces Division Administrator Appointments**

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced the appointment of two Division Administrators within the agency:

- Robert A. Rodriguez of Sun Prairie as Administrator of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division.
- Joseph W. Handrick of Port Washington as Administrator of the Equal Rights Division (ERD).

“Robert Rodriguez and Joseph Handrick bring strong credentials in state government, public service and management to their new roles, and I am pleased they are joining our team,” Secretary Newson said. “Their experience and talents will further strengthen both Divisions and move our agency forward.”

Rodriguez brings close to three decades of experience to his role. He was a management consultant, master trainer and partner with Professional Development Systems in Madison from 1983-92 before being named a Vice President, Director of Quality Assurance and Management at Firststar Bank in Milwaukee from 1992-98. From there he joined state government with appointments as Executive Assistant of the state Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection from 1999-2001 and Division Administrator in the Department of Commerce from 2001 until January 2002. Rodriguez was Human Resources Director at Inacom Information Systems in Madison from 2002-2005, when he joined Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation in his current role as Director of Corporate Training and Development.

Rodriguez earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication/theater and his master's degree in interpersonal communication at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He has post-graduate studies in behavior disabilities at UW-Madison. He has served on a variety of local, state and national boards of directors, and he is a U.S. Army veteran, having been awarded the Distinguished Military Graduate Award and the Medal of Commendation for action as the Division Operations Liaison during NATO exercises.

Handrick has an extensive background in public service, including work as an aide to former Governor Tommy Thompson from 1987-88 and a legislative assistant in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1990-93. He is a former member and Oneida County Board of Supervisors (1994-95) and a former state Representative from 1995-2001. He was the Minocqua Town Chairman from 2006-10 and member of the Lakeland High School Board of Education from 2008-10. Handrick has been a Government Relations Specialist at Renhart Boerner Van Deuren of Milwaukee since 2010.

Handrick earned a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rodriguez's appointment takes effect Monday, August 27, and Handrick's appointment takes effect on Wednesday, August 29.