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Secretary Newson: Governor Makes Workforce Development a Top Priority

At Sheboygan business forum, states commitment to make Wisconsin Workforce of Choice

SHEBOYGAN – Appearing before Sheboygan area business leaders today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson stated a commitment to ensure Wisconsin has a highly skilled workforce and keep the economy moving forward under Governor Walker's leadership.

"At DWD, we are committed to making Wisconsin the workforce of choice," Secretary Newson said. "With September being Workforce Development Month, we want employers, workers and job seekers know about the services DWD and its partners have to offer. At the same time, we are working to improve the system and address the skills gap that has frustrated manufacturers and other employers with good jobs available."

Secretary Newson noted groups working on a number of fronts to improve on training programs and address the skills gap. They include the College and Workforce Readiness Council, the Council on Workforce Investment and the Minority Unemployment Task Force. Governor Walker made workforce system reform a priority when he established the workforce readiness council as part of his Wisconsin Working plan.

"We look forward to reviewing recommendations of all stakeholders and advancing those that are in line with the Governor's budget priorities," Secretary Newson said.

Secretary Newson addressed the First Friday Forum sponsored by the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks to Sheboygan area business leaders, he said Governor Walker's strategies to improve Wisconsin's business climate are working. The latest evidence of that, he said, can found in the most recent Quarterly Census and Wages (QCEW) data.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, Wisconsin added 37,464 private sector jobs from March 2011 to March 2012," Secretary Newson said. "Manufacturing is leading the recovery in Wisconsin, adding more than 12,000 jobs over this 12-month period. In addition, wages are up 7.2 percent for the same quarter over the prior year."

With approximately 1,600 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provides training and employment services to workers, enforces workers' rights, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation programs.

Throughout the month, DWD and its regional partners in workforce development will hold events across the state. For a calendar of events scheduled by the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association, see: <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=wwdinfo%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>