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## **Secretary Newson: Grant Supports Career Planning Effort in Milwaukee County**

*Dozens of South Milwaukee High School students participate in day-long My Life! My Plan! workshop*

SOUTH MILWAUKEE – During a visit this morning to South Milwaukee High School, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson formally announced a \$30,000 state grant to pilot the My Life! My Plan! program for 3,000 youth in the Milwaukee area.

The My Life! My Plan! Program was developed by the Greater Milwaukee Committee as a one-day workshop in which high school students meet with mentors from the business community to explore careers and develop a plan for success after graduation, whether in the workplace or at a post-secondary institution.

“The My Life! My Plan! Program is an innovative public-private approach that helps students assess their skills and interests, learn more about the job opportunities that will be available to them, and determine what they need to do to prepare for those jobs,” Secretary Newson said. “The program brings together education, workforce development, private-sector employers and other key stakeholders to build a talent pipeline that meets labor market needs and helps address the skills gap.”

My Life! My Plan! was developed by the Greater Milwaukee Committee, which supports initiatives that enhance the business environment and quality of life in the Milwaukee area. Under the plan, members of the business community volunteer as career coaches to work with students in identifying potential career options and developing options for students that will enable them to meet their career goal. The students and mentors work together to complete a workbook that helps students to identify how their interests match up with career options. Students then develop a plan to gather necessary information and determine the steps necessary to successfully begin their identified career.

My Life! My Plan! was previously piloted to 300 students earlier this year. The \$30,000 DWD grant is going to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), which will administer the grant to serve more than 3,000 youth in area districts including Milwaukee Public Schools and the South Milwaukee School District.

Scott Jansen, Talent Dividend Program Director for the Greater Milwaukee Committee, previously presented the program to Governor Walker’s Task force on Minority Unemployment, a panel comprised of business and community leaders to identify solutions that support the employment of residents in the Milwaukee area. Jansen and Representative Mark Honadel, who represents South Milwaukee and is a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Minority Unemployment, joined Secretary Newson for the grant announcement.

(more)

“The My Life! My Plan! Program is a critical link that helps students to explore life after high school and provides assistance in preparing students to pursue appropriate academic or vocational training options that align with their career pathway goals,” Jansen said. “We look forward to continuing the close collaboration between the Greater Milwaukee Committee, DWD, and MAWIB that has already served hundreds of high school students in southeastern Wisconsin.”

Don Sykes, President of MAWIB, added: “The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board looks forward to supporting My Life! My Plan! by connecting our network of community-based organizations to expose young people to exciting career exploration. This innovative effort is a great way to ensure the workforce pipeline of the future.”