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Secretary Newson Urges Job Seekers, Employers in Eau Claire Region to Access Job Center Resources

During Job Center visit, Secretary Newson also highlights Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin

EAU CLAIRE – During a visit today to the Eau Claire Job Center, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson encouraged area employers and job seekers to register with the Job Center system and utilize the resources that are available to support a strong workforce and advance Wisconsin's economy.

"Wisconsin's Job Centers are a critical presence throughout the state, supporting employers and workers and providing an exchange to connect job seekers with job opportunities, Secretary Newson said. "We continue to look forward to working closely with job creators to support employment opportunities for Wisconsin residents."

The Eau Claire Job Center, located at 221 W. Madison St., provides a variety of services, such as recruitment assistance and labor market data for employers, and resource room, counseling and career planning assistance for job seekers. As part of his visit, Secretary Newson talked about ongoing efforts to address the skills gap in areas such as manufacturing, and said developing the state's workforce is one of Governor Walker's top budget priorities for 2013-15.

"Like with all areas of the state, we will continue to pursue ways to ensure employers in the Eau Claire region have the skilled workers they need," Secretary Newson said. "We look forward to collaborating with our workforce partners on innovative strategies that connect job seekers with jobs and grow the state's economy."

Secretary Newson's visit also coincides with Governor Walker's proclamation of October as Manufacturing Month. Secretary Newson has been visiting manufacturing employers, workforce partners, and educational facilities in Wisconsin to highlight awareness of manufacturing as a good career option for Wisconsin residents, and to identify best practices that are being implemented or considered.

In the workforce region that includes Eau Claire, the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board is working with local manufacturers, education and economic development stakeholders to plan a Manufacturing Training Academy that will provide an opportunity for workers laid off from the Polaris plant closing in Osceola in Polk County to receive skills training that will prepare them for work at local manufacturing employers. The board is working with partners to develop a training curriculum that meets hiring employers' labor needs.

The state's manufacturing sector employs nearly 450,000 workers throughout the state, including more than 5,000 employees in Eau Claire County.