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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 24, 2013

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## **Secretary Newson Congratulates Sargento Foods, MPS High School for National Award Highlighting College & Career Readiness Efforts**

*Plymouth-based employer receives ACT Workplace Success honors; Rufus King International School  
in Milwaukee receives College and Career Transition award*

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today congratulated Sargento Foods in Plymouth and Rufus King International School in Milwaukee on their recent receipt of awards by ACT for college and career readiness efforts. The awards were presented by ACT as part of the organization's initial College and Career Readiness campaign, which included Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Alabama, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

"The awards received by these organizations demonstrate the collaborative and innovative approaches that Wisconsin's many workforce partners pursue to prepare the future generation of workers in our state," Secretary Newson said. "I congratulate Sargento Foods as well as Rufus King International School, for their achievements in earning these honors from ACT, and I also applaud the Job Center of Wisconsin system for its ongoing work to help Sargento Foods reach levels that garnered this distinction."

Governor Walker has proposed a comprehensive agenda in his 2013-15 budget plan to strengthen workforce development and education, including support for ACT testing of high school students and funds to enable students to access WorkKeys test to assess work readiness. The budget also includes funds to support academic and career plans for students in Wisconsin to help them to plan for their career after high school and to lay the groundwork for the education they need to be successful.

Sargento Foods received the Workplace Success award in recognition of its use of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program to certify the readiness of job seekers for positions with Sargento. DWD has assisted the company on the NCRC program by helping staff complete job profiles for production, sanitation, culinary, and process technician occupations. The local Job Center of Wisconsin office administers the NCRC test and has awarded an NCRC to 22 potential workers. Sargento has also posted more than 200 jobs since the beginning of 2011 on [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com), the state's premier labor exchange.

In addition to DWD, Sargento works closely Lakeshore Technical College and Plymouth High School to provide an insight to students on food manufacturing and to develop a "soft skills" curriculum that helps to prepare students for employment success.

Rufus King International School received the College and Career Transition Award for its role in helping to prepare students for life after high school. Rufus King is an International Baccalaureate school, providing instruction that helps to prepare students for post-secondary education or the workplace. The school has also been recognized on both a state and national level for its efforts to support students. Secretary Newson is a 1990 graduate of Rufus King International School