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Lt. Governor Kleefisch, DWD Secretary Newson Visit Waukesha Metal Products to Encourage Students to Pursue Manufacturing Careers

Visit coincides with national celebration of Manufacturing Day

GRAFTON – Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson, and Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership Executive Director Buckley Brinkman visited Waukesha Metal Products in Grafton today to highlight the value of manufacturing as a career.

Waukesha Metal Products hosted an open house for students from John Long Middle School in Grafton, who will have the opportunity to tour Waukesha Metal Product's metal fabrication facility.

"Manufacturers in Wisconsin are adding thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs under Governor Walker's leadership, enabling working families to find good jobs in their communities," said Lt. Governor Kleefisch. "I encourage anyone seeking a good-paying job to consider a career in manufacturing. Careers in manufacturers include not only welders and machinists, but also professions like IT professionals, accountants, and other rewarding and challenging occupations."

Manufacturing Day is being celebrated today, October 4, by manufacturers across the country that are opening their shop floors to students and members of the public. The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership are coordinating the event nationally. Twenty-six businesses in Wisconsin are hosting events on Manufacturing Day.

Governor Walker has proclaimed October Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin. During the month, he will join Lt. Governor Kleefisch, members of the Governor's Cabinet, officials from Wisconsin's technical colleges, K – 12 education, industry organizations and businesses to highlight manufacturing during various events.

"Manufacturing contributes nearly \$50 billion to Wisconsin's economy, approximately 20% of Wisconsin's economy," Secretary Newson said. "The average wage for a manufacturing worker in Wisconsin is \$52,000, or \$11,000 more than the average wage for all Wisconsin workers. Anyone seeking a new career or considering a different career path should consider one of the many opportunities available in the manufacturing sector."

Governor Walker has made workforce development a top priority of his administration. In the 2013 – 2015 biennial budget, the Governor included more than \$100 million in new resources for workforce development, including funds for DWD, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin. The funds will support a number of initiatives, including Wisconsin Fast Forward, which allots \$15 million to fund employer-led worker training grants for skilled occupations.

For more information: <http://www.wimanufacturingmonth.org>