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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 9, 2014

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## **Hundreds of Wisconsin High-School Students to Receive Hands-On Introduction to Apprenticeship at Biennial Expo**

MADISON – Hundreds of high school students from communities across southern Wisconsin will get a close-up look at the state-of-the-art, challenging and high-paying career opportunities that Wisconsin Apprenticeship can offer. The students will attend a special Apprentice Expo on January 27 during the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Apprenticeship Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

More than 25 training partners including unions, employers, utilities and merit shop organizations will host hands-on, interactive displays for more than 50 occupations involve apprenticeship to train skilled workers. The occupations cover construction, manufacturing, utility, service and agriculture sectors.

Close to 600 students from schools in central and southern Wisconsin are registered to attend and see apprenticeship in action through numerous displays. Highlights include:

- A look inside a mobile welding trailer and a virtual welding simulator used to train Welder-Fabricators.
- A tour of a mobile Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) Machining lab that shows how advanced manufacturing workers produce quality parts.
- A demonstration of a virtual paint sprayer used to train Painter-Decorators
- A close-up look at major equipment, including a bucket utility truck used by Electric Line Workers
- A flow tank that demonstrates how Wastewater Treatment Operators process incoming water
- Hair-cutting demonstrations to feature the Barber occupation.
- Handle fencing and animal management equipment, including cloud-based animal health and identification record systems, used by Dairy Graziers in the production of cheese and other quality dairy products.

"A key focus of the conference is to promote the value of a career pathway in the skilled trades as a viable post-secondary education option," Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said. "We look forward to giving the next generation of our state's workforce a first-hand look into the high-tech, modern and diverse occupations that apprenticeship can offer."

Each participating student will receive a "scorecard" to be punched at each trade booth visited and will have the opportunity to earn a small reward for touring all booths.

The theme of the January 26 - 28 conference, which will be at the Chula Vista Resort, is *The Apprenticeship Solution: Meeting the Workforce Challenge*. The program includes nationally recognized speakers Anirban Basu, President and CEO of SAGE Policy Group and Mark Breslin, founder and CEO of Breslin Strategies. Dan Ariens, President and CEO of the Ariens Company will also speak at the conference.

The conference is co-sponsored by DWD and the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council. For conference details and registration, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/conference/default.htm>