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Secretary Newson Talks with Students at Bradley Tech during My Life! My Plan! Workshop

MILWAUKEE – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today met with 42 Bradley Tech High School Students who are scheduled to participate in My Life! My Plan!, an innovative career exploration workshop that has helped hundreds of southeastern Wisconsin students plan their futures beyond high school.

"My Life! My Plan! brings career mentors from the local business community into the classroom to help students identify their interests and strengths, and plan potential careers in jobs that employers will need to fill," Secretary Newson said. "The businesses, educators and community agencies that collaborate on this workshop are building a foundation to help the next generation of Wisconsin's workforce to prosper. On behalf of Governor Walker, we thank the volunteers and organizations that have collaborated on this initiative."

Business mentors from Johnson Controls and General Electric took part in today's workshop at Bradley Tech, one of numerous sites in southeastern Wisconsin to host the half-day My Life! My Plan! workshop.

My Life! My Plan! was originally developed by the Milwaukee Talent Dividend, an effort of the Greater Milwaukee Committee. It consists of a workshop that encourages students to consider their education through the lens of various career pathways. Young people and their families are able to access resources that encourage them to make informed decisions about education and career options.

The workshop covers a variety of topics and activities. Highlights include:

- Focus on clusters and pathways, many specific to potential jobs in the metropolitan Milwaukee area.
- Interaction with career coaches from the local business community who guide students through career and education decisions.
- Information about programs that will help students develop a personalized plan for their career and education pathway.
- Assessments to align students' interests and aptitudes with occupations in the region, including those with current openings and those that are expected to grow.
- Students and mentors complete a workbook that helps them to consider options after high school and develop a plan to determine how they can successfully transition from high school to post-secondary education and into a career.

DWD in September 2012 supported the program through a \$30,000 grant to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB), which coordinated the program with the Greater Milwaukee Committee in the Milwaukee region.