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DWD Secretary Speaks to Green Bay-area Business Leaders on Governor Walker's Workforce Development Agenda

GREEN BAY – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson joined the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce for its legislative breakfast to discuss how Governor Walker's workforce agenda has positively impacted Wisconsin businesses and workers.

"Since taking office, Governor Scott Walker has made supporting private-sector job creation a centerpiece of his administration," said Secretary Newson. "Under the Governor's leadership, DWD and other agencies have partnered with employers to connect working families with good-paying jobs. Efforts like the Wisconsin Fast Forward program prepare workers in response to identified employer needs and connect individuals with open positions at Wisconsin businesses."

Governor Walker's administration has focused on investing in workforce and economic development, aligning K-12 education with careers of the future and positioning Wisconsin's workforce to fill high-demand, good-paying jobs.

Secretary Newson announced the first round of approved applications for the Wisconsin Fast Forward program at the Wisconsin Economic Development Association conference in February. Among the grants are three Green Bay-area applications, including:

- Forward Service Corporation will provide a six week training program to prepare 24 people to work at United Health Group's Call Center in Green Bay.
- Bay Area Workforce Development Board will train 30 people, both incumbent workers and new hires, in a Welding/Ship fitting Boot Camp and Marine Composites course.
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College will train 25 incumbent workers from two plastic product manufacturers on electrical troubleshooting.

In his State of the State address earlier this year, Governor Walker proposed a "Blueprint for Prosperity" that includes tax relief and a \$35 million expansion of the Wisconsin Fast Forward program, targeted towards reducing technical college waiting lists in high-demand fields, increasing school-to-work opportunities for high school seniors, and increasing employer-responsive training programs for individuals with disabilities. Both bills have passed the legislature and are awaiting Governor Walker's signature.