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Career Development Funds Available for Wisconsin Workers ***Federal grant extension will help new and unemployed workers***

Madison – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin has received a \$151,197 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to assist in the development and delivery of career guidance information for Wisconsin's workers.

The Department of Workforce Development has contracted with the Center on Education and Work at the University of Wisconsin to develop electronic career guidance tools for use throughout the state in schools and Job Centers. The career guidance tools are also available to individuals filing for unemployment insurance to assist them in choosing career paths that fit the needs and interests of the adult population. The tools, named "*Careers 4 Wisconsin*" and "*WISCareers*," allow users to review average salary and wages paid for jobs, the fastest growing occupational areas, skills and education needed for specific occupations and current job openings.

"These additional funds will help us provide information and resources for both new and experienced workers who need help in choosing and developing their career paths," Gassman said. "This is another important tool in our efforts to grow Wisconsin's workforce."

The grant is for the period of July 21, 2004 through July 20, 2005, an extension of an existing DWD grant.

WisCareers is available for public use at Job Centers throughout the State. *Careers 4 Wisconsin* can be accessed at <http://www.careers4wi.wisc.edu/index.asp>.

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