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Governor

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Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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Tuesday, October 19, 2004

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Media Advisory

DWD Secretary to attend Disability Awareness Month events

October is National Disability Awareness Month. Secretary Gassman from the Department of Workforce Development will be attending two Disability Awareness month events October 20th in La Crosse.

Disability Mentoring Day, October 20th, is a national event, which was developed to promote employment of persons with disabilities. Local area youth with disabilities are matched with mentors according to their career interests. The youth typically spend a couple of hours with their mentor to learn more about a particular career.

Western Wisconsin Technical College will be hosting the local Disability Mentoring Day at the Technical College with Independent Living Resources, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and CESA #4. There will be approximately 100 young adults with disabilities from the La Crosse and surrounding area participating.

**Where: Western Wisconsin Technical College, Kumm Bldg
304 6th Street N
La Crosse**

**When: Wednesday, October 20, 2004
12:30 p.m.**

Following the Disability Mentoring Day event, Secretary Gassman will recognize the one-year anniversary of the Disability Navigator system at the La Crosse Job Center. The Disability Navigator helps people with disabilities "navigate" through the enormous challenges of seeking work. Complex rules surrounding entitlement programs, along with fear of losing cash assistance and health benefits, can often discourage people with disabilities from working. The Disability Navigator's purpose is to better inform beneficiaries and other individuals with disabilities about the work support programs available. In La Crosse, the system is accessible at the local Job Center.

**Where: La Crosse Job Center
402 N. 8th St.
La Crosse, WI**

**When: Wednesday, October 20, 2004
1:15 p.m.**