DWD Workforce Programs
Conference – March 12, 2014

“Business is the Customer”
Employer Panel – Mike Ruminski
Transportation Workforce Development in WI

- Over 160,000 Wisconsinites, 1 in 15 workers, are tied to trucking
- Fleets range from single operators to some of the largest in the U.S.
- Average annual earnings are $42,000 per year for CDL drivers
- “Home time” and work options have improved, wages not as much yet
Transportation Economic Impact in WI

- Truck transportation moves 90% of materials and goods in the state
- 80% of WI communities rely on trucks/drivers for transportation needs
- Safe, vibrant and productive trucking industry vital to WI economy
- Trucking jobs cannot be “offshored” but can and are being “imported”
Industry Challenges – Driver Capacity

- Inadequate supply of interested, qualified, trained and certified drivers
- Shortage exists today and being exasperated by “baby boomer” exits
- With the average of hire being 42, Trucking’s needs are more acute
- More regulatory and liability exposure have increased standards
Industry Challenges – Support and Competition

- “Restrained” training capacity in the WI Technical College system
- Less attention and training funding directed toward trucking – until now
- Competition from other states who are “exporting” CDL drivers to WI
- Demand for CDL drivers is driving up cost of filling needs
WI DWD and Other Agency Solutions

• WI Motor Carriers Association led consortium began 3 years ago

• Partnered with DWD, WEDC, Tech Colleges, Veterans’ Services and DOT

• Transportation page on JCW resulting increased awareness and need

• Military driving experience transferrable to CDL classification

• Public/private creation of a WI CDL Training Program
DWD Personal Experiences – Mike Ruminski

• As a Bay Workforce Development Board member
  ▪ Technology – JCW upgrade and Skills Explorer
  ▪ Development of a statewide workforce development system
  ▪ Local Job Center Staffing (Job Services leadership and Voc. Rehab.)

• As an Employer and Business Leader
  ▪ Job postings and core services referrals
  ▪ Job readiness assessments and services (NCRC)
  ▪ Public/Private Collaboration and Partnerships