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Secretary Gassman Announces \$43,800 Grant to Train 88 Employees in Medford, Merrill Areas

Workforce Advancement Training Grant to Help Hurd Windows & Doors, Inc. Train Workers for Highly-Skilled Jobs of Tomorrow

MEDFORD – On behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced a grant that will help Hurd Windows & Doors, Inc. of Medford train 88 employees. The \$43,800 Workforce Advancement Training Grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System was awarded to Northcentral Technical College, which will provide training for Hurd employees.

“One of the smartest investments we can make for a strong Wisconsin economy is in job training and workforce development,” Secretary Gassman said. “This grant will enable Hurd Windows & Doors to upgrade its workers’ skills and meet training needs in lean manufacturing. Through workforce advancement training, our technical colleges are able to create a worker-training program that meets the needs of our businesses and helps us train workers for the highly-skilled jobs of tomorrow.”

The grant will enable Northcentral Technical College to provide 320 hours of instruction to 88 employees at Hurd Windows & Doors’ Medford and Merrill facilities – helping the company achieve its continuous training goals in lean manufacturing, value stream mapping, and electromechanical training. The training is expected to enhance and broaden the knowledge and technical skills of employees, augment manufacturing processes, increase business productivity, and foster employee retention. The training will be a critical part of the company’s strategy to position itself for long-term growth.

Headquartered in Medford, Hurd Windows & Doors has an 85-year tradition of building custom windows and doors to the highest standards of excellence and quality. Hurd products are sold exclusively through more than 400 distributors in the United States, Canada, and 20 countries worldwide. The company’s Medford production facility is an important employer in the region, drawing employees from a 145-mile radius.

Workforce Advancement Training grants are awarded to technical colleges throughout the state to work with local businesses and upgrade worker skills and productivity for Wisconsin workers and businesses – providing improved job security, increased career opportunities, and support for regional workforce and economic development efforts.

The budget Governor Doyle proposed to the Legislature quadruples investments in workforce advancement training, from \$2 million to \$8 million, to help Wisconsin’s technical colleges train an additional 36,000 workers. This investment ensures that Wisconsin is creating highly-skilled workers prepared to fill the jobs of tomorrow and that the state remains competitive in the economy of the future.