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Secretary Gassman Appoints Hector Colon as Executive Assistant

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the appointment of Hector Colon of Milwaukee as Executive Assistant for the Department.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Hector Colon to the top management team at the Department of Workforce Development," Secretary Gassman said. "Hector has tremendous experience with economic development, especially in the city of Milwaukee, and he will be a great asset to our team as we move forward with building our current and future workforce, helping connect people with jobs, and ensuring employers have the highly-skilled, highly trained workers for the jobs of tomorrow. I know I can count on Hector's leadership as we work to carry out Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin agenda and continue moving our great state forward."

As Executive Assistant, Colon will fill one of the Department's top three leadership roles and be responsible for external relations for the Secretary's Office, including communications, legislative, and congressional relations, as well as interactions with DWD partner agencies and organizations. The appointment is effective October 8, 2007.

Colon has served as the Director of Economic Development for the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) since July 2005, helping the state agency increase overall lending activity by 33 percent and increase revenue by 30 percent. He is a former legislative fiscal manager for the City of Milwaukee's Department of Administration, former associate executive director of the United Community Center's Elderly Programs, and an assistant director of mental health programs at Wisconsin Correctional Services. He received both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from UW-Milwaukee, and a certificate in management and leadership from Marquette University. Colon has been active in his community and has received several leadership awards, including being named Hispanic Director of the Year by the Spanish Times, receiving the Milwaukee Business Journal's 40 under 40 Recognition Award, and receiving the Alumni of the Decade Award from UW-Milwaukee.

Colon replaces Executive Assistant Janel Hines, who has accepted a top management position with the state Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) as the Director of Urban Development in Milwaukee.

"Janel has been a key advisor and leader in our Department, and I thank her for the great work she has done," Secretary Gassman said. "In her new role at DHFS, she will use her incredible talents to tackle one of the most important challenges facing our state: child welfare. This is a great opportunity for her and I wish her the best."

A member of Governor Doyle's cabinet, Secretary Gassman leads the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and oversees 1,900 employees charged with strengthening the state's workforce. With a budget of more than \$2 billion, DWD provides training and employment assistance to job seekers, enforces worker's rights, administers Unemployment Insurance, Apprenticeship, and Worker's Compensation, and works with employers to fill jobs.

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