

Jim Doyle  
Governor

Roberta Gassman  
Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
201 East Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707-7946  
Telephone: (608) 266-3131  
Fax: (608) 266-1784  
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>  
e-mail: [dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us)

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 18, 2008

CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

## Secretary Gassman Announces \$100,000 for Gateway Partnership, Training World's First Auto Techs in Snap-on Tool Diagnostics

### *State Labor Secretary highlights Governor's latest investments in skilled workforce*

KENOSHA – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced, as part of Governor Doyle's *Grow Wisconsin – The Next Steps* plan, a \$100,000 collaborative effort to train 100 more Gateway Technical College students as the world's first auto technicians certified in the use of Snap-on Incorporated, high-end diagnostic tools.

"Wisconsin needs workers trained as certified diagnostic automotive technicians, and we are meeting the challenge at Gateway's Horizon Center, a new state-of-the-art training site that is a model to the nation," Secretary Gassman said. "Thanks to the Governor's latest *Grow Wisconsin* plan and our strong partners, we are able to invest \$100,000 in new money to expand an innovative training program. As many as 100 new students will now receive training to become certified diagnostic automotive technicians. This is good news for the Kenosha area and the state, and it is another example of what we are doing to ensure a first-rate workforce."

Secretary Gassman also announced the Horizon Center will soon expand its program to train students as certified diagnostic diesel technicians. She said the diesel diagnostics program will have a special focus on alternative fuels, in keeping with the Governor's goal of making Wisconsin energy independent. Gateway President Bryan Albrecht announced a new 17,000 square foot addition to the center, saying diesel diagnostic training would begin as soon as the addition is complete.

In the *Grow Wisconsin – The Next Steps* plan that he recently announced, the Governor directed DWD to commit \$25,000 in funding to the unique training program at Gateway's new Horizon Center for Transportation Technology. During a visit to the center today, Secretary Gassman said the \$25,000 in turn will leverage \$75,000 -- \$25,000 each from the college, Kenosha County and Snap-on, a major manufacturer of tools.

At the Horizon Center event, President Bryan Albrecht also announced a new 17,000 square foot addition to the center, space for a new heavy equipment, diesel technician training program similar to the automotive program. A unique focus of the diesel diagnostics program will be alternative fuels.

In announcing the funding, Secretary Gassman highlighted other items in the Governor's *Grow Wisconsin – The Next Steps* plan to further strengthen Wisconsin's workforce:

- **Opportunity Grants** – In the next budget, the Governor will propose a \$1.5 million grant program to help low-wage workers who are high school graduates gain additional education and training at Gateway and other technical colleges. Individuals currently ineligible for financial aid could receive grants of up to \$1,000 a year for training in high demand occupations.
- **Minimum Wage** – The Governor proposes increasing the state's minimum wage, a raise that would benefit 230,000 workers, the majority of them women.
- **Skills Jump Start Pilot Training Grants** – The Governor has directed DWD and WTCS to use \$240,000 in Joyce Foundation funds to help adults lacking a high school diploma complete their basic education and get job training. The Governor will seek \$400,000 to pilot the program at technical colleges in his next budget.
- **Adult Apprenticeship** – To meet the increasing demand for skilled workers in the trades, the Governor proposes four new apprenticeships in plastics, printing, utilities and health care. The proposed \$300,000 investment would open apprenticeship opportunities for 1,000 more individuals.