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Secretary Gassman Introduces Waukesha Job Seekers to Wisconsin's New Internet Employment Site

Free, interactive site has improvements for job seekers and employers

WAUKESHA – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today introduced job seekers at La Casa de Esperanza, Waukesha, to the state's new Internet employment site, JobCenterofWisconsin.com.

"We need the talent and contributions of everyone to keep our economy going, despite difficulties at the national level and tough global competition," Secretary Gassman said. "This new, interactive site will serve as a portal to employment opportunities and jobs of the future for all who want to work. Among our strengths in Wisconsin is a diverse, talented workforce, and members of the Hispanic community will find the site user friendly."

In a visit to the job training facility operated by La Casa de Esperanza, Secretary Gassman met with job seekers and provided a hands-on demonstration in how to find jobs in the Waukesha area, or anywhere in the state. She noted that the site includes Job Seeker Tools with a drop down menu and link to services in Spanish. Job seekers who speak Spanish or Hmong can also get help by dialing the toll free number for the Call Center, 888-258-9966, listed on the site.

"With this new site, we are developing an employment and training system for the 21st century," Secretary Gassman said. "More importantly, we are connecting job seekers and employers. In these times, we need to do everything we can to help people connect with jobs. The new Job Center of Wisconsin site is for everyone, whether you have years of job experience or are just starting out, whether you have an advanced degree or are just graduating from high school."

Developed as part of Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin plan, JobCenterOfWisconsin.com is the Wisconsin-based employment site linking Wisconsin employers with anyone looking for a job. Secretary Gassman is touring the state to make more employers and job seekers aware of the new website.

JobCenterOfWisconsin.com is a Wisconsin-based employment site, linking employers with anyone looking for a job. The Internet-based site is free to both employers and job seekers and is available 24-hours a day. Job seekers can explore job opportunities from their home computers or at Job Centers, libraries or any other places with public Internet access, such as the Urban League.

"With a majority of our skilled workforce expected to retire in the next 10 years, it is important that we connect the 700,000 workers who are unemployed or underemployed in Wisconsin with the training and technology they need to be able to fill the jobs of our Wisconsin employers," Secretary Gassman said. "This site makes it easy and convenient."

JobCenterofWisconsin.com replaces the state's JobNet system, which was created in 1993 and has become out-dated. In 2007 DWD and Governor Doyle's Council on Workforce Investment initiated a pilot site operated by the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and its partners. DWD further improved the site's function and design with the assistance of job seeker and employer feedback sessions.

Among the most significant improvements:

- An easy, fill-in-the-blank feature helps job seekers create professional-looking resumes that can be saved, emailed or printed;
- Users may keep resumes confidential or make them available for search by employers;
- Employers can search for skilled employees through key search terms;
- Job seekers can find a list of job fairs and other employment and training events in their area; and
- The site has a user-friendly design with simple navigation.

A second round of upgrades will be added in December, including workshop sign-ups; wage, job trend and career information; and simplified methods for employers to save job postings. Users will also be able to view short demonstration videos that describe various careers.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is charged with strengthening Wisconsin's workforce. DWD provides training and employment assistance to job seekers; enforces worker's rights; administers the state's unemployment insurance, apprenticeship, and worker's compensation programs; and works with employers to find appropriate job candidates.

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Photo URL Link: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2008/jcw_homepage.jpg

Caption:

JobCenterOfWisconsin.com, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's new Internet employment site, is colorful, easy to navigate and user-friendly with improved capabilities for both employers and job seekers.

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