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## **DWD Secretary Gassman: Wisconsin Expanding Efforts to Help Unemployed Return to Work as Economy Improves**

### ***In Green Bay, State Labor Secretary Highlights Reemployment Services for Workers***

GREEN BAY – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today highlighted an expansion of services to help unemployed Wisconsinites sharpen their skills, become job ready and return to work as the economy steadily improves.

“We’ve experienced the worst national recession since the Great Depression, but our economy is now improving,” Secretary Gassman said. “Employers are beginning to hire again. Our online employment site currently has more than 25,700 job openings, including more than 800 in the Green Bay area. More than ever before, our Unemployment Insurance and Job Service staff are teaming up to help people return to work at the first opportunity.”

During a visit to the Green Bay Job Center, Secretary Gassman met with a group of individuals attending a Reemployment Eligibility Assessment (REA) session. DWD is holding more than 10,000 REA sessions statewide to provide intensive, one-on-one services to the unemployed. Individuals receive skills assessment, help searching for job opportunities, job referrals and follow-up services.

These sessions complement another effort, Reemployment Services (RES) sessions, supported by federal American Recovery and Recovery Act funding. DWD has been conducting 90 RES sessions each week across Wisconsin. The RES sessions include intensive skills assessment through a WorkKeys system. Those who successfully complete WorkKeys receive a National Career Readiness Certificate, demonstrating their skills to potential employers. RES sessions also provide work-readiness and job-search assistance.