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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Secretary Gassman Awards Nearly \$81,000 in Skills Jump Start Grants

State Labor Secretary highlights Governor Doyle initiative to help low-wage workers advance

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today awarded nearly \$81,000 in Skills Jump Start (SJS) grants to launch low-wage workers onto career paths to better jobs with technical college training that combines occupational skills and basic education.

“With Governor Doyle’s Skills Jump Start initiative, low-wage workers have a great opportunity to build skills, both basic education and occupational skills for jobs in growth sectors,” Secretary Gassman said. “Skills Jump Start can open doors to thousands of middle skill jobs. These are jobs with good pay and benefits that do not require a four-year college degree.”

Secretary Gassman awarded a grant of \$64,742 to the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, and another grant of \$16,225 to the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board. Both boards, which are DWD’s regional workforce partners, will recruit and register individuals for training in two demand sectors. Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College will provide training in healthcare and the emerging clean energy sectors at their local technical colleges.

Skills Jump Start is part of Governor Doyle’s worker training package totaling more than \$10 million over two years. Skills Jump Start investments total \$400,000.

Nearly 700,000 Wisconsin residents earn less than the median wage because they have no formal education and training beyond high school. Skills Jump Start training is an entry point for college-level training. The program combines job skills training with basic education in the same classroom experience, and it is connected with an existing certificate or degree program of study.

To be eligible, individuals must be at least 18 years of age and lack a high school diploma or need remedial education. Classes run from the fall of 2010 through August 2011. Individuals interested in participating should contact their local workforce development boards or Job Centers in locations where Skills Jump Start is being offered.

To find the nearest Job Center location, individuals can check the online directory, <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/>, or call toll free (888) 258-9966.

For contact information on regional boards, check the online WDA directory: <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/wdas.aspx?menuselection=wdb>
or
http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwdwia/PDF/wda_list.pdf