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Secretary Perez setting the Department of Workforce Development Agency on Course to Help Businesses Create Jobs and ensure Competitive Advantage of Wisconsin Workers

Governor Walker's Cabinet member thanks Senate for confirming his appointment

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Manny Perez today said he looks forward to aligning DWD with Governor Walker's goal of helping business and industry create 250,000 private-sector jobs by 2015, following his recent confirmation by the state Senate.

"At DWD, we will work to advance Wisconsin's economy with a superior workforce development system that attracts, creates and retains jobs, while empowering individuals to become self sufficient," Secretary Perez said. "We aim to become the leading workforce development agency of its kind in the nation."

Also today, Secretary Perez listed the department's strategic objectives:

- Support and promote a quality Wisconsin workforce that becomes a key marketing differentiator and competitive advantage for Wisconsin's economy;
- Align state-of-the-art training and job service counseling focused on meeting private sector labor needs and achieving employment outcomes;
- Empower individuals to become self sufficient and pursue lifelong learning;
- Support local workforce development boards, economic development partners, tech school system, local chambers of commerce and CBOs to anticipate and meet private sector labor needs
- Ensure judicious management of the unemployment insurance program and fund along with preventing fraud and abuse
- Reduce the case load at the Equal Rights Division and support mediation of cases when applicable
- Continue to support state-of-the-art safety programs and workplace safety in synergy with our partners and community at large
- Support coordinated approach to economic and workforce development across all stakeholders

Secretary Perez thanked Senate President Mike Ellis, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and other senators who confirmed his appointment on Thursday, March 3.

"I am honored to serve as a member of Governor Scott Walker's Cabinet and lead this important agency," Secretary Perez said. "I look forward to working with the Senate, as well as members of the Assembly, doing all that we can to help Governor Walker create private sector jobs and get Wisconsin working again." Additionally, we will provide thought leadership and facilitate coordinated approaches among local workforce and economic development boards, technical school systems, chambers of commerce, community based organizations and other stakeholder to ensure that Wisconsin's workforce is competitive."

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With 1,645 employees and approximately \$450 million in budget, DWD works with employers through the local workforce development board organization to anticipate and meet private sector labor needs, facilitate worker training aligned to meeting private sector labor demands and employment services to workers. DWD also helps people with disabilities gain employment and independence, manages the Equal Rights Division, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation programs.

Until his appointment, Secretary Perez was President and Co-owner of JNA Staffing, Inc., in Milwaukee. He previously was North American Product Manager for Manpower Managed Services, Manpower, Inc., Milwaukee. Secretary Perez is a labor economist with more than 25 years in the staffing and human resources industry.