

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Secretary Perez Visits Ocean Spray, Central Wisconsin Job Fair

State Labor Secretary cites increasing job openings, promotes worker training

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – In his first visit to the Wisconsin Rapids area today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Manny Perez visited the Ocean Spray Cranberries and met with workers training to earn Manufacturing Skill Standards Certification (MSSC), a national industry-recognized credential.

“This valuable training program helps boost Wisconsin’s competitive edge in two ways,” Secretary Perez said. “First, it focuses on safety, and that will help maintain, if not further reduce, the already low worker’s compensation premiums employers pay. Second, it provides employers the highly skilled workers they need to compete in today’s global economy.”

The rigorous training program includes four training modules: safety; quality practices and measurement; manufacturing processes and production; and maintenance awareness. Wisconsin ranks second among states in MSSC credentials earned with a total of 2,766.

During his visit to the area, Secretary Perez also stopped at the Central Wisconsin Job Fair at Mid-State Technical College. Thirty-seven area employers took part in the job fair. He noted the DWD online employment site, JobCenterofWisconsin.Com, has approximately 3,100 jobs openings in the nine-county, North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development area. He said the number statewide exceeds 28,000 job openings.

“For several weeks, over 28,000 openings have been listed throughout the state on our online employment site,” Secretary Perez said. “We have seen job opportunities increase since Governor Walker took office in January and declared Wisconsin open for business. He is working to create a business-friendly environment and jobs. We can help job seekers find work, and employers who hire them may qualify for incentives.”

Employers can learn more about MSSC training at:

<http://mssc.wisconsin.gov/>

Employers can learn more about hiring incentives at:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/jobservice/taxcredit/>

Job seekers can find more information about increasing employment opportunities at:

<https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>