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Secretary Baumbach Salutes Michels Corporation, Strong Partner in Workforce Development; Cites Job Growth under Governor Walker

Family-owned construction firm in Brownsville employs over 4,000 workers nationwide

BROWNSVILLE – During a visit to the Michels Corporation today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach recognized the family-owned and operated construction company for its longstanding partnership in apprenticeship training and continuing success on a national scale.

“The Michels Corporation is a strong partner, not only in workforce development, but in advancing Governor Walker’s efforts to help move Wisconsin’s economy forward,” Secretary Baumbach said. “Over the past five decades, Michels has grown from a gas pipeline construction company to a major corporation employing over 4,000 workers nationwide. Michels has created jobs, including many apprenticeship opportunities, and we want to help Michels and other employers expand and create more jobs.”

Secretary Baumbach noted the latest employment numbers for Wisconsin show the economy continues to move in the right direction under Governor Walker’s leadership. In June, the private sector added 12,900 jobs, bringing the new private-sector job total to 39,300 since Governor Walker declared Wisconsin open for business. For the second consecutive month, the construction sector added jobs, 1,600 in June, following a 700 gain in May.

“At the Department of Workforce Development, we are doing everything we can to spur economic growth,” Secretary Baumbach said. “We are working closely with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. We are working with other partners to align and target training resources so that employers have the skilled workers they need. Finally, we are committed to doing everything we can to help connect job seekers with new work opportunities, empowering them so that they can succeed.”

In addition to the latest job growth numbers, Secretary Baumbach noted employment opportunities on the DWD employment website. Job openings posted by employers on JobCenterofWisconsin.com topped 32,000 statewide last week.

Michels Corporation has been a longstanding participant in Wisconsin’s apprenticeship program, Michels has trained training over 150 apprentices since 1996 alone. Michels and its 14 divisions have provided apprenticeship opportunities for construction electricians, operating engineers, cement masons, construction craft laborers and iron workers.

Michels is one of three Wisconsin contractors hired by We Energies to build the utilities Glacier Hills Wind Park in Columbia County. With 90 wind turbines, Glacier Hills will be Wisconsin’s largest wind farm.