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## **DWD Secretary Baumbach: New Advanced Manufacturing Training Lab Takes Message of Career Opportunities to Future Workforce**

### ***Mobile lab will travel to high schools in Northeast Wisconsin, promoting high-tech careers***

GREEN BAY – During a ceremony to commemorate a new mobile lab that brings advanced manufacturing training to schools across Northeastern Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach today urged students of all ages to consider manufacturing as a path toward above-average pay and future career opportunities.

"We know skills in advanced manufacturing are in demand, as manufacturing and production rank among the top five openings we have available through our Wisconsin Job Center system, including [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com)," Secretary Baumbach said. "We also know manufacturing jobs make up more than one fourth of jobs in Northeastern Wisconsin. At the DWD, we are pleased to be a partner in this collaborative project to bring advanced manufacturing training to schools across the region, showcasing the many opportunities that this career path can offer."

The Computer Integrated Manufacturing Mobile Laboratory was developed by a consortium of workforce partners in Northeastern Wisconsin and features 12 cutting-edge advanced manufacturing machines mounted on a 44-foot trailer and truck. The mobile lab will visit Northeastern Wisconsin high schools throughout the year, providing hands-on experience for students with a variety of computer numerical control (CNC) machines commonly used by area manufacturers. Technical education teachers in participating school districts can be certified to incorporate the lab into school's curriculum, and participating students can earn advanced college credits.

"Since Governor Walker took office, Wisconsin has added 15,000 manufacturing jobs," Secretary Baumbach said. "A career in manufacturing today means an in-depth understanding of technology and requires significant training. This mobile lab will provide students with opportunities to understand the underlying machinery that has made Wisconsin a national leader in manufacturing."

The Bay Area Workforce Development Board, DWD's regional workforce partner, worked on the project with the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC), Lakeshore Technical College, school districts and local employers allied with the NEW Manufacturing Alliance. Funding for this career development project includes \$250,000 in federal Workforce Investment Act dollars administered by the Bay Area WDB.

James Golembeski, Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, said: "This is an excellent example of how our manufacturers, our technical colleges, our K-12 school districts, and the Bay Area Workforce Development Board can collaborate to meet the real needs of our employers and raise awareness so young people will train for high wage, in demand jobs that will be in northeastern Wisconsin for a long time to come."

NWTC President Dr. H. Jeffrey Rafn said: "At Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, we are seeing an increasing demand for a highly-skilled manufacturing workforce, and we are committed to growing that workforce. We are excited to bring cutting edge technical education directly to our rural school partners through this collaborative project."