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

DWD Executive Assistant Maxwell Cites Job Growth, Notes Openings on JobCenterofWisconsin.com, Encourages Job Seekers at Jefferson YouthFest

Top workforce development official visits Jefferson County job center as part of Workforce Development Month, highlighting partnerships that empower people to succeed

JEFFERSON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Executive Assistant Georgia Maxwell said today Governor Walker’s efforts to improve Wisconsin’s business climate are creating employment opportunities for job seekers, including young adults at a YouthFest job center event.

“Governor Walker’s open-for-business strategies are working, and the proof is in the numbers,” Executive Assistant Maxwell said. “So far this year, Wisconsin has added 28,700 private sector jobs, including 15,000 in manufacturing, the largest year-to-date gain since 1994. With good jobs available, we and our regional partners are working to empower young adults and all job seekers to succeed.”

Executive Assistant Maxwell visited the Jefferson County Workforce Development Center to celebrate Workforce Development Month and highlight successful partnerships in developing a skilled workforce. She is the third-ranking official at DWD, one of the largest Cabinet level agencies in state government.

In addition to job growth, she cited job postings on JobCenterofWisconsin.com, which recently exceeded a record 34,000 openings. As part of Workforce Development Month, DWD and its partners will celebrate the third year of the DWD online employment site that has become increasingly popular with employers and job seekers since that DWD launched it in September 2008.

Organized by the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, the YouthFest session provides employment services to young adults, 18 to 21 years of age, who face a variety of employment barriers. They receive help exploring options and setting goals, such as earning a high school diploma or GED for those who did not complete high school.

"Our youth and young adult services are critical to prepare our next generation of workers," said Pat Schramm, Executive Director of the South Central WDB. "As we move out of the recession, we anticipate that we will see unprecedented shortages in skilled labor, which is why it's so important that we focus on our youth now."

Throughout Workforce Development Month, DWD and its partners will highlight services to empower and support Wisconsin’s workforce as part of Governor Walker’s strategy to advance the economy and help create private sector jobs. A schedule of events can be found at <http://wwda.org/wfcmonthcalendar.html>.

With approximately 1,600 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provides training and employment services to workers, enforces workers’ rights, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker’s Compensation programs.