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## **Department of Workforce Development, Wisconsin Center for Nursing Announce Results in Latest Nursing Workforce Survey**

### ***Results offer valuable knowledge about nursing in Wisconsin***

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach today joined Wisconsin Center for Nursing (WCN) Executive Director Judith M. Hansen, MS, BSN, and WCN President Dr. Ann Cook in announcing the results of a survey of over 14,000 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in the state. This nursing survey is part of an ongoing initiative to study the state's health care workforce and develop strategies to keep this workforce sector strong in the face of an expected labor shortage.

"Health care continues to be one of the most often-cited occupational fields in need of trained and talented workers in Wisconsin, demonstrating the tremendous opportunity on the horizon for Wisconsinites in search of good-paying jobs," Secretary Baumbach said. "Over the next decade, more than half of LPNs will be retiring and our workforce development system needs to have a pipeline in place to train the next generation of workers and ensure these individuals are job-ready to keep this vital workforce sector strong."

WCN's Judith M. Hansen stated: "The 2011 LPN Survey provides valuable information for a greater knowledge of this important practice area of the nursing profession, and will facilitate the development of evidence-based strategies to more accurately plan for an adequate, well-prepared and diverse nurse workforce for the people of Wisconsin."

Department of Safety and Professional Services Secretary Dave Ross added: "This data will not only help us better meet the health care needs of Wisconsin citizens but it will also assist our agency in protecting the safety of patients and health care providers."

The survey of 14,165 active LPNs was conducted as part of the annual license renewal process overseen by the state Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). The study, required under Chapter 106.30 of the Wisconsin Statutes, asked a series of questions to determine the state of nursing as it applies to LPN license-holders. A similar survey was done in 2010 for Registered Nurses (RNs).

Key findings of the 2011 LPN Survey include:

- LPNs are as a group older and 40% of those surveyed reported they plan to leave nursing within 5 years, and nearly 60% plan to leave within the next 10 years.
- Nearly 40% of those answering the survey reported they had been at their primary place of work for less than 5 years.

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- 5.9% of respondents reported they were looking for work.
- 8.2% reported themselves as retired.
- Less than 5% of LPNs reported they speak a second language but of those, more than 2% reported they speak Spanish.

These findings and other nursing survey reports are available on WORKnet, the state of Wisconsin's Labor Market Information website at <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov> and the Wisconsin Center for Nursing website at [www.wicenterfornursing.org](http://www.wicenterfornursing.org). WCN will study and develop plans to address the future nursing requirements in Wisconsin.

Earlier this year, DSPS administered the survey online and in paper format, and DWD received and began initial analysis of the data. The 2011 LPN Survey was developed by the Labor and Market Information (LMI) Section of DWD's Division of Employment & Training.

A formal report containing information from both this survey and the 2010 RN Survey will be presented to the Wisconsin Legislature by DWD before the end of September 2011. DWD would like to thank the following organizations for their collaboration:

**State agencies:** DSPS and DHS;

**Educational Institutions:** University of Wisconsin System – Schools of Nursing, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

**Nursing Organizations:** Wisconsin Center for Nursing, Wisconsin Nurses Association, Wisconsin Nursing Coalition, and Wisconsin Association of Licensed Practical nurses.

**Health Care Organizations:** Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Medical Society, Medical College of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System.