
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 12, 2012

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Secretary Newson Highlights Governor Walker's 'Wisconsin Working' Initiative to Connect Jobseekers with Jobs

Secretary meets with Sheboygan-area leaders to outline plan

CLEVELAND, Wis. – At a forum with Sheboygan-area business leaders today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson highlighted “Wisconsin Working,” Governor Walker’s initiative to further improve Wisconsin’s business climate.

With the plan, Secretary Newson said Governor Walker has directed DWD to build on successful strategies and take added steps to help employers find the workers they need. DWD will also work to strengthen its partnership with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

“Governor Walker’s plan comes at an especially opportune time,” Secretary Newson said. “Recent employer survey results confirm Wisconsin is moving in the right direction. Employers have good jobs available, and they’re ready to hire. With this plan, we and our partners will increase efforts to connect jobseekers with employers, providing the skilled workforce needed to spur economic growth and create private sector jobs.”

Speaking at the Lakeshore Technical College Cleveland Campus, Secretary Newson said DWD has a crucial role to play in Governor Walker’s “Wisconsin Working” plan. The plan directs DWD to do the following:

- Double the number of job fairs in 2012 by holding at least 100 community job fairs throughout the state. In addition, DWD will increase efforts to match people on unemployment insurance with jobs employers have to fill. DWD will also join the Department of Veterans Affairs in holding 14 job fairs for veterans this year.
- Expand re-employment services by hiring 14 additional DWD staff to help people receiving unemployment benefits return to work quicker. With the new hires, a total of 37 DWD staff in Job Centers throughout the state will provide re-employment services to help people on unemployment succeed in finding a job.
- Strengthen its partnership with WEDC in working with employers expanding operations in Wisconsin. In partnership with WEDC, DWD will work to place UI claimants in available jobs whenever possible.
- Play a leading role on the new College and Workforce Readiness Council to ensure and sustain a skilled workforce in the years ahead. Representing stakeholders and partners, the Council will work to improve student readiness for college and careers through a variety of measures, including designing shorter and less costly degree programs aimed at filling high-need positions.

“We are committed to moving Wisconsin forward, and we welcome and appreciate the efforts of all who are working to advance Wisconsin’s economy and create private sector jobs, benefiting working families, employers, and communities throughout the state,” Secretary Newson said.