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Welder-Fabricator Apprenticeship Program Introduced at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Apprenticeship is fourth developed under federal Sector Alliance for the Green Economy grant

GREEN BAY – The Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards (BAS) and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) introduced the new Welder-Fabricator apprenticeship program today, January 25, in Green Bay. The program is the second apprenticeship developed in partnership with NWTC and the fourth under the federal Sectors Alliance for the Green Economy (SAGE) grant.

"This program showcases the responsiveness and flexibility of apprenticeship in meeting workforce training needs in the green economy," said Lisa Boyd, Administrator for the DWD's Division of Employment and Training. "Welding and fabricating are integral to producing components of renewable energy systems and energy efficient products. The Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, in partnership with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, worked jointly to develop this comprehensive apprenticeship program."

The Welder-Fabricator apprenticeship was developed in response to the needs of Wisconsin's heavy manufacturing sector. It offers hands-on learning for two high-demand occupations in heavy manufacturing (welding and fabrication) in a single program. It follows a hybrid model in which apprentices are assessed on-the-job using a combination of time and competencies. The program is structured for four years, or 8,000 hours, including 7,560 hours on-the-job learning and 440 hours of related instruction.

"Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is very excited about our ability to offer the Welder-Fabrication apprenticeship," said Todd A. Kiel, Apprenticeship Manager for NWTC. "We feel it gives us a full range of offerings that provide access to credentials for our constituents. With the increased demand for heavy manufacturing in Northeast Wisconsin, this cannot come at a better time."

The Welder-Fabricator program is the fourth of six new apprenticeship programs to be developed through the \$6 million SAGE project grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. SAGE's purpose is to employ short and long-term strategies critical to the greening of Wisconsin's workforce by forming partnerships with businesses, educators and other stakeholders to identify and address labor force needs specific to "green" or clean energy jobs in construction, manufacturing and utility industries.

For more information: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/default.htm>