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## Secretary Newson: Governor Walker's 'Wisconsin Working' Plan Focuses on Preparing Next Generation of Skilled Labor

*Secretary cites newly created panel on workforce readiness during visit to Milwaukee Jobs Corps*

MILWAUKEE – During a visit today to the Milwaukee Job Corps campus, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson reaffirmed Governor Walker's commitment to training the next generation of skilled workers as part of the Governor's "Wisconsin Working" initiative to connect job seekers to jobs and improve the state's business climate.

"The Milwaukee Job Corps helps young people complete high school while they undergo training for careers in manufacturing, health care and construction," Secretary Newson said. "The focus on preparing youth and young adults for jobs that are in demand will be critical to Wisconsin's economic future, and this importance is reaffirmed through the new College and Workforce Readiness Council that Governor Walker has created under his 'Wisconsin Working' plan."

"Under the Governor's vision, we will advance efforts to bolster student college and career readiness throughout Wisconsin," Secretary Newson said.

Secretary Newson, along with DWD Deputy Secretary Jonathan Barry and Executive Assistant Georgia Maxwell, toured the Milwaukee Job Corps campus. The facility operates a full-time vocational training program for low-income students from age 16 to 24. Students receive remedial education, training, and job placement upon successful completion of the program. The Center also operates a GED program for students and two high school programs for students with the goal of ensuring every qualified student graduates with a high school diploma or equivalent. Approximately 80% of the Milwaukee Job Corps' students live on campus while participating in the program.

Secretary Newson, whose father completed training in 1969 as a welder through a Job Corps program in Tennessee, said he wanted to tour the Milwaukee Job Corps to learn more about the program. He recognized key partners such as Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett who helped bring the Milwaukee center to fruition. The first students started at the center in January 2011.

The Milwaukee Job Corps opened as the 125<sup>th</sup> Jobs Corps center and is supported by the United States Department of Labor (DOL). Across the country, Job Corps graduates enjoy a successful placement rate of over 80% in either an education program, entry-level job or the military. The Job Corps is funded directly by the DOL and receives approximately \$8 million each year to fund the operations of the center, or \$27,000 per enrolled student.

The campus is located at 6665 N. 60<sup>th</sup> St. In addition to the facility in Milwaukee, there is also a Job Corps Center located near Laona, Wisconsin operated by the United States Forest Service.

For more information: <http://milwaukee.jobcorps.gov/>

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