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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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Secretary Newson Congratulates Graduates of Advanced Manufacturing Training Program Developed to Prepare Them for Jobs at Milwaukee Gear

MILWAUKEE – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today told new graduates of an advanced manufacturing training program they help send a compelling message to all, young people in particular, as they start work at Milwaukee Gear in the days ahead.

“Governor Walker put it best when he said that we need to send a powerful, powerful message to our young people that there’s not just a job in manufacturing, but a career, a good career,” Secretary Newson said. “Now that you’ve completed training as machinists, you help send the message, workers with the right skills, ready to start work at Milwaukee Gear and begin rewarding careers in manufacturing.”

Secretary Newson joined Milwaukee Gear President and CEO Richard Fullington and workforce development partners in congratulating 15 graduates, who completed 10 weeks of training as CNC machinists. The program was developed in collaboration with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) and Big Step and included instruction at Waukesha County Technical College and Milwaukee Gear.

In applauding the graduates, Secretary Newson cited opportunities for others in manufacturing, including nearly 100 machinists openings in the metro Milwaukee area that are currently posted on <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>. The average annual salary of machinists in the metro Milwaukee is approximately \$43,000.

Secretary Newson said Milwaukee Gear also sends a message, by expanding and adding 112 workers in producing precision gears for domestic and foreign customers. Exports and an improving domestic auto industry are driving job growth in manufacturing, which is leading the recovery in Wisconsin.

“After three years of job losses totaling 150,000, we added 13,500 private sector jobs last year under Governor Walker’s leadership, and that includes 9,300 in manufacturing,” Secretary Newson said. “We are turning things around in Wisconsin and we are moving in the right direction.”

Secretary Newson said Governor Walker’s “Wisconsin Working” plan, highlighted in his recent, State of the State address, will keep Wisconsin moving forward. The plan calls on DWD to meet the current workforce needs of manufacturers and other employers by doing the following:

- Double the number of job fairs in 2012 by holding at least 100 throughout the state.
- Expand re-employment services by hiring 14 additional DWD staff to help people receiving unemployment benefits return to work quicker.
- Strengthen its partnership with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in working with employers expanding operations in Wisconsin.