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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Secretary Newson Announces Steps the State is Taking to Assist Workers Affected by Unexpected Golden Guernsey Closure

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced initial steps that DWD and its regional workforce partner are taking to assist workers affected by the unanticipated closure of the Golden Guernsey dairy plant in Waukesha over the weekend.

“Clearly, the closure of the plant was unexpected for the employees and the Waukesha community, and the abrupt nature of the act is particularly troubling,” Secretary Newson said. “We want the workers to know that we are here to support them and are working as quickly as we can to initiate services that will assist them and their families during this uncertain and difficult time.”

Secretary Newson said DWD and its regional workforce partner, the Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington (WOW) Workforce Development, Inc., have scheduled Rapid Response orientation sessions for affected workers in the WOW region on **Wednesday, January 16, and Thursday, January 17, at the WOW Workforce Development, Inc., offices at the Workforce Development Center, 892 Main Street, Suite A, Pewaukee. Affected workers are asked to pre-register by calling 262-695-8041. Additional details about each session, including available time slots, will be provided individually.**

The Rapid Response services are part of the DWD-administered Dislocated Worker Program, which serves workers who become dislocated when a business cuts positions or ceases operations entirely. The goal is to help them find work at new jobs that pay as well or better than their previous employment. Services include training assistance to improve existing skills or provide new job skills for a different occupation. Wisconsin invests nearly \$55 million annually serving approximately 35,000 dislocated workers in various programs.

Secretary Newson said DWD did not receive advance notice from the company of the closure, but DWD has attempted to establish contact with company leadership since that time.

The state Business (Plant) Closing and Mass Layoff Law states that, with certain exceptions, employers with 50 or more workers must provide notice 60 days in advance of when 25 or more employees are affected by a business closing or 25 percent of the workforce is affected by a mass layoff.

For more information about the dislocated worker program and services:  
[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker/pdf/fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker/pdf/fact_sheet.pdf)

For more information about the state and federal laws requiring notice of plant closings and mass layoffs:  
[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/labor\\_standards\\_bureau/business\\_closing\\_and\\_mass\\_layoffs.htm](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/labor_standards_bureau/business_closing_and_mass_layoffs.htm)

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