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## **Secretary Newson Presents at Harvard -Sponsored “Pathways to Prosperity” Event on Work-Based Learning Strategies**

*Newson joins numerous business, government leaders and elected officials at agenda-setting conference*

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson joined state and national education, business, and government leaders today at the “Pathways to Prosperity” conference, hosted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA.

While at the conference, Secretary Newson took part in a panel on “Strategies for Increasing Work-Based Learning,” moderated by Professor Stephen Hamilton of Cornell University and joined by Hans Meeder, Co-Founder and President, the National Center for College and Career Transitions; Mike Wiggins, Executive Vice President for Human Resources, Southwire Company; Philomena Mantella, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life, Northeastern University; and Grace Suh, Manager, Education, Corporate Citizenship, and Corporate Affairs, IBM.

Secretary Newson spoke about several innovative work-based learning programs operating in Wisconsin, including Second Chance Partners for Education, an innovative school-to-work program that is expanding this year as a consortium in the state’s Youth Apprenticeship program. He also discussed the nationally recognized Cardinal Manufacturing program, a student-operated metal fabrication and welding program at Eleva-Strum High School in western Wisconsin.

Wisconsin’s Youth Apprenticeship program was highlighted in the original “Pathways to Prosperity” report, which was released in February 2011. The report cited the program as an “Exemplar of Employee Engagement” due to the program’s success in empowering youth and preparing them for future careers.

“Under Governor Walker’s leadership, DWD has focused on strategies that will support the creation of private-sector jobs, and prepare the next generation of workers to succeed in those jobs,” said Secretary Newson. “Events like the ‘Pathways to Prosperity’ conference provide an opportunity to share Wisconsin’s success stories and learn more about successful strategies being pioneered in other states.”

*Pathways to Prosperity Report:*

[http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news\\_events/features/2011/Pathways\\_to\\_Prosperty\\_Feb2011.pdf](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2011/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011.pdf)