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DWD Secretary Newson, WEDC CEO Hall Reinforce Governor Walker's Commitment to Develop Workforce, Create Jobs

Cabinet Officials address business, government leaders at Workforce Paradox Conference

WAUWATOSA – During a joint presentation today at the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce's (WMC) Workforce Paradox Conference, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Secretary and CEO Reed Hall reaffirmed Governor Scott Walker's commitment to advance a comprehensive agenda to develop the workforce and advance job creation.

Both Cabinet leaders discussed Governor Walker's proposals with business, government and education leaders who convened for the second annual Workforce Paradox Conference, organized by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce. The event was held at Briggs & Stratton Corporation in Wauwatosa.

"Under Governor Walker's vision, the state will work collaboratively with employers, educators, economic development organizations and other key partners to ensure a skilled workforce now and in the years to come," Secretary Newson said. "As part of this, we will help Wisconsin workers develop the skills they need to find good, family-supporting jobs and achieve true independence."

Secretary Newson and CEO Hall co-presented during a panel discussion on state-level efforts to keep Wisconsin competitive with other states looking for skilled workers.

"Economic development helps to create opportunities for businesses to grow. We, at the WEDC, deliver highly-customizable solutions to businesses and the communities that support them," CEO Hall said. "Workforce development complements these efforts by strengthening the availability of skilled workers to fill the jobs businesses create."

The Governor last month put forth a \$100 million workforce development agenda that includes \$15 million in training grants that will be issued as part of the newly Wisconsin Fast Forward Initiative legislation, as well as substantial investments and reforms in his 2013-15 biennium budget proposal to prepare Wisconsin workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The Governor's budget also includes a comprehensive package of economic development initiatives that span multiple agencies including WEDC to improve Wisconsin's business climate, support small business growth and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

The budget proposal is currently under review by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance.