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Governor Walker's Milwaukee Summer Youth Program Update: Over 240 Milwaukee Youth Finish Season with Work Experience

Program connected 243 Milwaukee youth and young adults with employment in 2013 season

MADISON – Governor Walker's Summer Youth Employment Program ended the 2013 summer season having provided 243 Milwaukee youth with structured work experience and career-readiness workshops.

"The Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program is reflective of Governor Walker's deep commitment to strengthen the Milwaukee community by equipping area youths and young adults with the skills and education they need to be successful," state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said. "Participants not only earn a paycheck and complete preparatory coursework, but they also gain valuable work experience that will only help them as they pursue their career paths."

The program supported work placements for young adults aged 14 – 24 at sites throughout the Milwaukee area. Earlier this year, Governor Walker directed DWD to support the program with \$422,000 in state funding and \$78,000 in Workforce Investment Act funding. New this year were placements for participants with private-sector employers and a week-long, career-readiness course for participants to complete. DWD partnered with the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee to deliver the program.

The Governor's Summer Youth Program includes the following components:

- Youth completed a week-long work-readiness training course that covers topics including career exploration, team building exercises, interviewing, work habits, financial literacy, and resume writing.
- Participants complete their work experience with additional vocational skills.

The Summer Youth Employment Program comes as part of a larger push by Governor Walker to develop Wisconsin's workforce. The Governor's 2013 – 2015 biennial budget includes more than \$100 million in additional resources targeted to workforce development, including funds for DWD, other state agencies, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges, and the UW System.