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## **DWD Secretary Newson, WDVA Secretary Scocos Meet Veterans, Employers at Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair for Veterans in Milwaukee**

### ***Over 200 veterans pre-registered; U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill lead sponsors***

MILWAUKEE – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson and Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John Scocos met with veterans and employers Thursday at the Hiring Our Heroes job fair for veterans at the Goodwill James O. Wright Center for Work and Training in Milwaukee.

Over 200 veterans pre-registered for the job fair that included more than 70 Milwaukee area employers with jobs to fill. As a co-sponsor, DWD alerted veterans and helped the U.S. Chamber of Commerce promote the job fair, one of over 650 nationally since the chamber began the Hiring Our Heroes series in 2011. WDVA is also a co-sponsor of the event with Goodwill Industries serving as host.

"With Wisconsin's improving economy, good jobs are available, and we are doing our best to help our veterans who served our country and sacrificed so much, especially the brave men and women returning from active duty," Secretary Newson said. "Hiring Our Heroes is all about that and more. Veterans make great employees. They typically have skills in operating very sophisticated equipment, and with their discipline and strong work ethic, they can quickly contribute as team players to the success of a business."

Secretary Newson said DWD's Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provided employment and training assistance to more than 7,700 newly registered veterans last year. DWD and its partners hosted 13 job fairs for veterans last year that drew close to 1,800 veterans and 630 employers. Over half of the participating veterans received follow-up interviews or job offers.

Wisconsin's online employment site, [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://JobCenterofWisconsin.com), currently has more than 48,000 job openings statewide, including positions highlighted for veterans. More than 400 veterans receiving GI Bill education benefits were enrolled in DWD Apprenticeship training last year, learning skills for family supporting jobs in the trades.

"We thank the employers who have made a commitment to hiring veterans and organizations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce who brings together employers with veterans who are seeking employment," Secretary Scocos said. "Helping those who have served our country gain access to quality jobs is good not only for the veteran, their family and their community, but it is also good for the businesses and organizations employing them. The training that veterans received while in the military gives them the skills and attitude that will help make businesses and organizations successful."

In 2014, the WDVA will host seven symposiums around the state for public and private sector human resources professionals who would like to learn more about hiring veterans. Many veterans-employment topics will be covered, including: the benefits of hiring veterans, how to find and connect with veteran job-seekers, translating military experience into civilian terms, as well as learning to "speak veteran" – acronyms, terminology and references veterans commonly use. Over the past two years, the WDVA in partnership with major Wisconsin employers hosted 15 symposiums for both small and large businesses and organizations statewide.

For more about DWD employment and training services for veterans, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/>