



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Governor Scott Walker Delivers Remarks at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Apprenticeship Conference

Wisconsin Dells – Governor Walker delivered remarks at the 26th Biennial Apprenticeship Conference themed “The Apprenticeship Solution: Meeting the Workforce Challenge,” held at Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells today. Nearly 600 high school students, as well as job creators, educators, and union and trade representatives attended the three-day event.

“Apprenticeship is a key asset in our efforts to help people get the skills they need for the jobs available today,” Governor Walker said. “We invested \$100 million dollars in my last budget on a comprehensive plan to develop our workforce. As of November, the number of apprentices is up 34 percent from the year before. In December, I signed legislation to add at least 500 more high school students to the Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program. We have made great strides, and we will continue to work to make sure everyone who wants a good job, can get a good job.”

2013 Act 57, signed by Governor Walker, creates an apprenticeship tuition reimbursement program, which enables apprentices or their sponsors to apply for tuition reimbursement up to 25 percent of the training cost or \$1,000 per apprentice, whichever is less.

Developing the Workforce

The 2013-2015 state budget, signed by Governor Walker, includes \$100 million investment in worker training. Governor Walker’s *Wisconsin Fast Forward* initiatives provide customized worker training in key areas, like manufacturing, construction, and customer service. The state enrolled more than 1,200 high school students in the Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program and in December, Governor Walker signed legislation at Nicolet Technical College to add at least 500 more high school students to the program. Other workforce development initiatives include a \$1,000 per pupil incentive for high schools to provide career and technical education programs, and a scholarship for high school students, who excel in technical education. The Department of Workforce Development also launched Skill Explorer, a web-based tool that lets individuals search for openings based on skills instead of job titles.

In addition, Governor Walker’s *Blueprint for Prosperity*, unveiled during the 2014 State of the State address, increases the *Wisconsin Fast Forward* program by \$35 million to focus on eliminating the technical college waiting list in high demand fields, help high school students get training in high demand jobs through dual enrollment programs, and support programs helping people with disabilities enter the workforce, as outlined in the *Year of A Better Bottom Line* initiative.

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