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Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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Governor Walker Proclaims STEM Education Week in Wisconsin

Week draws awareness to high tech fields offering opportunities for future workforce

MADISON – Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed the week of March 10-15, 2014, as the Celebration of STEM Education Week in Wisconsin. The week is designed to raise awareness of the bright future that's available to students who pursue learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

"STEM represents major economic clusters and development in Wisconsin, and experts believe STEM-related job openings will more than double between 2008 and 2018," Governor Walker said. "Given both the opportunities and the need by employers to fill their labor market needs, we must do everything we can now to engage and motivate students to explore science, technology and other high tech fields subject areas and related career pathways."

Governor Walker's proclamation follows Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month in Wisconsin, which included numerous activities and events throughout February to promote and honor the importance of CTE to our state's economy and workforce.

"As Wisconsin looks to develop its workforce, STEM education can help students not only learn about science, technology and other career fields, but students who pursue STEM education develop creativity and innovation, build critical and logical thinking skills, identify and solve problems, and to develop other qualities that underscore the challenging, fascinating and rewarding paths that STEM-related careers can provide," Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said.

In fall 2013, as part of Governor Walker's fall legislative agenda, the legislature passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities legislation to encourage students to consider career and technical education, including:

- **Youth Apprenticeship** – Increased funding for the nationally-recognized youth apprenticeship program by \$1 million;
- **Apprenticeship tuition reimbursement** – Enables apprentices or sponsors to receive a reimbursement of \$1,000 or 25% of tuition, whichever is less.
- **CTE incentive grants** – Reimburses school districts \$1,000 per pupil for completing industry-recognized certifications in high-demand industries and occupations; and
- **Technical Excellence higher education scholarships** – Allows school districts to nominate high school seniors showing proficiency in technical subjects to receive a \$2,250 scholarship to a Wisconsin technical college.