

Jim Doyle
Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>
e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 30, 2007

CONTACT: Jessica Erickson, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

Secretary Gassman Announces \$16,314 Grant to Train 30 Long-Term Care Workers in Northern WI

Workforce Advancement Training Grant to Help Six Nursing Facilities Train Workers, Provide Dementia Care, Help Meet Demand for Nurses

RHINELANDER – On behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced a grant today that will help six for-profit skilled nursing facilities in Northern Wisconsin train 30 workers in the health care profession. The \$16,314 grant from the Wisconsin Technical College System was awarded to Nicolet Area Technical College (NATC), which will help address identified skills gaps among direct care workers and other employed in the long-term care industry.

“This grant will help these nursing facilities provide much-needed training for their workers, helping to ensure both a skilled health care workforce and quality care in Northern Wisconsin,” Secretary Gassman said. “If we are to have a strong economy in the future, we must make investments now in job training and workforce development. Through workforce advancement training, our technical colleges are able to create a worker-training program that both meets our businesses’ needs and ensures highly-skilled workers for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The grant will enable NATC to provide 138 hours of instruction to 30 direct care workers, lead workers, social workers, and others employed with six nursing facilities in Northern Wisconsin. Those nursing facilities are: AGI HealthCare in Crandon; two Golden Living Centers in Tomahawk; two nursing facilities in Rhinelanders operated by Northpoint Senior Services – Friendly Village Nursing Home and Taylor Park Nursing and Rehabilitation; and Nu-Roc Community Healthcare in Laona. Secretary Gassman announced the grant during a visit to Rhinelanders, where she toured Friendly Village and Taylor Park.

The training is expected to increase knowledge and skills in medication administration, dementia care, and mentoring. Certified Nursing Assistants who successfully complete a Medication Assistant training program can also expect wage increases. Participating nursing facilities have expressed a dire need for direct care workers and licensed nurses, as well as a growing demand for more highly acute medical services and dementia care. This grant will enable these facilities to provide this training for their employees, increasing worker skills and ensuring quality care.

Workforce Advancement Training grants are awarded to technical colleges throughout the state to work with local businesses and upgrade worker skills and productivity for Wisconsin workers and businesses – providing improved job security, increased career opportunities, and support for regional workforce and economic development efforts.

The budget Governor Doyle proposed to the Legislature quadruples investments in workforce advancement training, from \$2 million to \$8 million, to help Wisconsin’s technical colleges train an additional 36,000 workers. This investment ensures that Wisconsin is creating highly-skilled workers prepared to fill the jobs of tomorrow and that the state remains competitive in the economy of the future.