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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Secretary Gassman Announces \$430,385 in Industry Partnership Regional Training Grants for North Central Wisconsin Region

Governor Doyle made funds available as part of commitment to skilled workforce

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced four Industry Partnership grants totaling \$430,385 to support efforts to train workers for careers in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, health care and information technology.

“These grants continue Governor Doyle’s commitment to work with regional employers and other workforce partners to build job skills and grow the economy in north central Wisconsin,” Secretary Gassman said. “These strategic investments represent a win-win for working families, employers and communities across the region.”

The grants are part of Governor Doyle’s \$6 million Industry Partnership program. The program represents an innovative approach to training that involves area employers, labor unions, workforce development agencies, economic development agencies, technical colleges, K-12 schools, and University of Wisconsin institutions.

DWD’s regional partner, the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, will administer the funds to advance the following initiatives:

- **\$206,820 for advanced manufacturing industry training:** Dislocated manufacturing workers and other workers will receive intensive skills assessments through the WorkKeys system; complete modules in Manufacturing Skills Standard Certification, which is an industry-led, standards-based training, assessment and certification system; receive instruction through Mid-State Technical College leading to a Food Technology Safety Certificate and a Safe Quality Food Certificate; and receive assistance to connect to potential employment opportunities and for career pathway advancement. A key partner in the initiative is the Community Foundation of South Wood County’s Workforce Central. Several area employers also are taking part, including Ocean Spray, Urban Processing and Coresno North America.
- **\$103,600 for health care training:** The funds will be used to identify entry-level health care employees who have a demonstrated interest in advancing to higher level careers in the health care field. Marshfield Clinic, Aspirus Health and Ministry Health Care are regional health care providers that are taking part in the initiative to boost the skills, employment and retention of participating employees. The initiative will use a health care specialized National Career Readiness Certification program, which will demonstrate their mastery of fundamental workplace skills. In addition, technical colleges will offer a Healthcare Career Exploration course, career interest tests and associate degree coursework in medical terminology. Training partners include Northcentral, Mid-State and Nicolet Area Technical Colleges.

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- **\$94,965 for training in clean energy:** The funds will support the Pre-Engineering Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Innovation Academy, providing workers with entry-level skills training and career exploration in the engineering field for potential employment in the bio-refining industry. The Academy provides a certificate based on skills gained in math, science and technology, including project management. Energy Composites Corp. of Wisconsin Rapids will serve as a pilot site for the Academy.
- **\$25,000 to assess workforce needs within the information technology field:** The funds will support the development of an information technology pathway for career advancement in the region. Stakeholders will assess and determine workforce needs in the information technology sector, including the exploration of high-tech training programs and career pathways. Convening partners include Centergy, Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, Portage County Business Council, Wausau Chamber of Commerce, McDevco, Grow North, Mid-State Technical College, Nicolet College, Northcentral Technical College, UW-Stevens Point, and other organizations.

For more information about Wisconsin Industry Partnership please visit the DWD Industry Partnership website: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/industry_partnerships/