
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

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Attention Jobseekers: Wisconsin is Open for Business

Column by Secretary Manny Perez Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

In the wake of the Great Recession, the state of Wisconsin must make difficult fiscal decisions so that we continue along the path to economic growth. Amid the challenging times we are in today, there's good news for Wisconsin jobseekers: The employment picture is growing brighter by the day.

Wisconsin employers are ramping up their hiring activity and growing more confident in our state's future. Wisconsinites who dropped out of the labor market are re-entering, optimistic that their next job is around the corner. Governor Walker's quick action to improve the state's business climate is accelerating the recovery, attracting new jobs from out of state and maintaining good-paying jobs that are already here.

Wisconsin's economic recovery, bolstered through Governor Walker's pro-jobs agenda, is creating quite a buzz: 4,200 Wisconsin residents re-entered the labor market in February.

Indeed, many challenges remain for our nation's economy – oil prices remain volatile, rising inflation is a concern, and overseas partners like Japan are recovering from natural disasters. But on the Wisconsin jobs front, 2011 is shaping up to be a strong year. For jobseekers, this is your moment to push forward like never before.

At the Department of Workforce Development, we empower Wisconsinites to become self-sufficient. We do this in part through a strong Wisconsin Job Center system operated by regional Workforce Development Boards and DWD organizations like Job Service and Vocational Rehabilitation. With a few computer clicks, jobseekers can access over 26,000 jobs at www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, a no-cost, 24-hour Job Service website that posts close to 2,500 new jobs during an average week.

Frequently updated job postings are just part of the many services and resources that are available through Job Center of Wisconsin. Resume-writing assistance, job counseling and interview simulation are just a few of the resources available through the nearest Job Center.

The Job Center website also helps private-sector employers find the skilled workers they need to remain productive and profitable. Employers can access close to 31,000 resumes and applications already uploaded on the website. They can easily post jobs and, through their local Job Center, promote and get assistance with upcoming recruitment activities. Job Center of Wisconsin provides myriad services and resources to employers, such as job fairs and assistance with the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program, which demonstrates workplace skills mastery among current and prospective employees.

We urge jobseekers, particularly those who have been out of work for an extended period, to redouble their search efforts now. By taking proactive steps to re-enter the workforce and aggressively pursue opportunities, jobseekers stand a much greater chance of finding that next good job. As more people move from unemployment into the labor force, our communities reap the multiplier economic benefits of job growth.

On behalf of Governor Walker, we at the Department of Workforce Development urge jobseekers to seize upon this moment, and we stand ready to assist in any way we can. Wisconsin is truly open for business.

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To find your local or regional Job Center: www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory