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Secretary Perez Cites Growing Demand for Labor, Increasing Employment Opportunities for Job Seekers

While visiting La Crosse, Labor Secretary notes hiring incentives for employers

LA CROSSE – In addressing 7 Rivers Region partners today, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Manny Perez alerted job seekers to increasing employment opportunities and urged them to redouble their efforts. He also encouraged employers to take advantage of hiring incentives.

“We continue to see increasing job opportunities,” Secretary Perez said. “Our online employment site, www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, has exceeded 28,000 openings. While we are entering the hiring season, it’s also due in large part to the business-friendly climate Governor Walker is creating in Wisconsin. Good opportunities await job seekers who act now, and employers who hire them may qualify for incentives.”

Secretary Perez said Wisconsin provides a variety of hiring incentives for veterans, people with disabilities, and others who face major barriers to employment. He noted several federally-funded incentives:

- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)** – An employer could be eligible for a tax credit from \$1,500 to as much as \$9,000. The credit applies to new employees who belong to one of nine groups that have traditionally faced barriers to employment: veterans, people with disabilities, ex-offenders, welfare and food stamp recipients, and individuals on long-term family assistance.
- **Office of Veterans Services On-the-Job Training** – Depending on the number of veterans hired, an employer can be reimbursed from 50 to 90 percent of wages paid to a veteran for up to six months of on-the-job training.
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation On-the-Job Training** – The program will pay 50 percent of wages and fringe benefits up to 90 days when an employer hires a person with disabilities served by DVR.

Secretary Perez spoke to DWD economic and workforce development partners in the 7 Rivers Region. The Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board held the event at the Waterfront Restaurant. While in La Crosse, the Secretary has visits scheduled at the Job Center and City Brewing Co., which is expanding. The brewery earlier announced \$13 million in project over three years. Governor Walker visited City Brewing recently to announce nearly \$500,000 in tax credits for the expansion to help create 100 jobs and retain 434 jobs.

Job seekers can find more information about increasing employment opportunities at:
<https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>

Employers can learn more about hiring incentives at:
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/jobservice/taxcredit/>
http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/e_emprs_incent.htm
http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/dvr/pdf/dvr_16655_p.pdf

