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

While visiting Racine, Labor Secretary notes hiring incentives for employers

RACINE – In addressing Racine County 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.

“Job opportunities are growing in Wisconsin,” Secretary Perez said. “Over 28,000 openings are currently listed on our online employment site, www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com. This is typical of the hiring season we are entering, but it’s also due in large part to the business-friendly climate Governor Walker is creating in Wisconsin. Job seekers have many opportunities, 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 addressed nearly 80 Racine area leaders representing the Racine County Workforce Development Board, the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, and the Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce.

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