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Secretary Baumbach Attends Beloit Job Fair, Cites Increasing Employment Opportunities for Veterans, Other Job Seekers

DWD Secretary says Governor Walker's budget puts Wisconsin on path for growth

BELOIT – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach said today Wisconsin's business climate is improving under Governor Walker's leadership, creating employment opportunities for veterans and other job seekers.

"Wisconsin has added over 26,000 private sector jobs since Governor Walker declared Wisconsin open for business," Secretary Baumbach said. "Openings on JobCenterofWisconsin.com have exceeded 30,000 statewide. Under Governor Walker, we are working to advance Wisconsin's economy and business climate, helping businesses create jobs and empowering individuals to gain employment. It is through these efforts that we are making Wisconsin the workforce of choice."

Secretary Baumbach met with employers, veterans and other job seekers during the Veterans and Community Job Fair at the Army National Guard Armory in Beloit. Nearly 40 employers representing all sectors took part. They included Birdseye Foods, Regal-Beloit Corporation, Stoughton Trailers, Genencor, Mercy Health System, and St. Mary's Hospital.

The Veterans and Community Job Fair is one of 14 DWD and its partners have scheduled this year to reach out to veterans. While initially intended for veterans, the Beloit event was expanded to include all job seekers. The Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board joined DWD in sponsoring the event.

While significant economic challenges continue for the Beloit community, Secretary Baumbach noted a number of positive developments in the Beloit-Janesville area since the first of the year. They include:

- St. Mary's Janesville Hospital and Dean Clinic due to open January 9, 2012. The new \$90 million, 50-bed hospital and the \$60 million clinic are expected to provide more than 300 jobs in the community.
- NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes LLC announcement of plans to build a \$194 million production plant in Beloit that will employ as many as 150 people by 2016.
- FatWallet.com, a company that employs 55 workers and helps Internet shoppers find bargains, moving from Rockton, Ill, to downtown Beloit, because of Wisconsin's more favorable tax climate.
- Fairbanks Morse winning a subcontract with Marinette Marine to build two diesel engines for the U.S. Navy's Littoral Combat Ship program, enabling the Beloit company to retain more than 330 employees.

For employment opportunities, visit: <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>.

For a list of all Job Fairs, including those for veterans: <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/jobfairs/>

For more information about services for veterans: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/>