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Secretary Baumbach: Wisconsin High-tech Sector Offers Enormous Potential for Start-up Companies, Economic Expansion, Job Growth

State Labor Secretary cites 78,500 job opportunities per year, new & existing positions

WHITEWATER – In a keynote address to the fourth annual Wisconsin Science & Technology Symposium today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach said Wisconsin's high-tech sector has the potential to add significantly to the economic expansion and job growth occurring under Governor Walker's leadership.

"The high-tech sector's potential for start-up companies and job growth is enormous," Secretary Baumbach told the gathering of more than 150 science and technology researchers, health care leaders, business executives and other stakeholders. "We estimate the sector's employment opportunities at more than 78,500 per year through 2018. At DWD, we are committed to working with our partners to meet the sector's workforce needs."

Secretary Baumbach noted the employment projections include new jobs as well as openings in existing positions, as retirements and job turnover occur. The estimates prepared by the DWD Office of Economic Advisors list civil and industrial engineers, biochemists and biophysicists, environmental scientists and technical college teachers as occupations with the most new jobs.

Secretary Baumbach said the latest employment numbers for Wisconsin show the economy continues to move in the right direction since Governor Walker declared the state open for business his first day in office. In June, the private sector added 12,900 jobs, representing the state's largest one-month increase since September 2003 and bringing the new private-sector job total to 39,300 so far this year.

In addition to the latest job growth numbers, Secretary Baumbach noted employment opportunities on the DWD employment website. Job openings posted by employers on JobCenterofWisconsin.com topped 32,000 statewide last week. Employer surveys show business leaders are optimistic about Wisconsin's improving economy and plan to add positions, he said.

"At DWD, we are doing everything we can to spur economic growth," Secretary Baumbach said. "We are working closely with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. We are working with other partners to align and target training resources so that employers have the skilled workers they need. Finally, we are committed to doing everything we can to help connect job seekers with new work opportunities, empowering them so that they can succeed."