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Lt. Gov. Kleefisch, Secretary Newson highlight Governor Walker's 'Wisconsin Working' Plan to Move Wisconsin Economy Forward

In Oconomowoc, Walker team outlines plan connecting jobseekers with employers

Oconomowoc – At a meeting of Oconomowoc business leaders today, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson joined Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch in highlighting "Wisconsin Working," Governor Walker's initiative to further improve Wisconsin's business climate.

"We want to help employers find the skilled workers they need to fill available jobs to make Wisconsin more globally competitive in this challenging economy," Lt. Governor Kleefisch said. "Our new Administration is committed to maximizing workforce development strategies and increasing job placements to put more people to work in our state."

Secretary Newson said Governor Walker's plan calls on DWD to build on successful strategies of the Administration's first year in office, while strengthening its partnership with the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

"Governor Walker's plan comes at an especially opportune time," Secretary Newson said. "Recent employer survey results confirm Wisconsin is moving in the right direction. Employers have good jobs available, and they're ready to hire. With this plan, we and our partners will increase efforts to connect jobseekers with employers, providing the skilled workforce needed to spur economic growth and create private sector jobs."

Speaking at an Oconomowoc Chamber of Commerce meeting, Secretary Newson said DWD has a crucial role to play in Governor Walker's "Wisconsin Working" plan. The plan directs DWD to do the following:

- Double the number of job fairs in 2012 by holding at least 100 community job fairs throughout the state. In addition, DWD will increase efforts to match people on unemployment insurance with jobs employers have to fill. DWD will also join the Department of Veterans Affairs in holding 14 job fairs for veterans this year.
- Expand re-employment services by hiring 14 additional DWD staff to help people receiving unemployment benefits return to work quicker. With the new hires, a total of 37 DWD staff in Job Centers throughout the state will provide re-employment services to help people on unemployment succeed in finding a job.
- Strengthen its partnership with WEDC in working with employers expanding operations in Wisconsin. In partnership with WEDC, DWD will work to place UI claimants in available jobs whenever possible.

– more –

- Play a leading role on the new College and Workforce Readiness Council to ensure and sustain a skilled workforce in the years ahead. Comprised of representatives from small business, the workforce, the State School Superintendent, Cabinet Secretaries and top officials from public and private universities and technical colleges, the Council will work to improve student readiness for college and careers through a variety of measures, including designing shorter and less costly degree programs aimed at filling high-need positions.

“We are committed to moving Wisconsin forward, and we welcome and appreciate the efforts of all working to advance Wisconsin’s economy and create private sector jobs, benefiting working families, employers, and communities throughout the state,” Secretary Newson said.