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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 21, 2012

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Secretary Newson Announces \$2 Million to Provide Employment, Training Services to 755 Dislocated Workers in Bay Area, North Central Wisconsin

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced more than \$2 million in federal funding to provide employment and training services for approximately 755 dislocated workers in the Bay Area and North Central Wisconsin.

“From the beginning, Governor Walker has focused his energies on getting Wisconsin working again, and these funds will help us better serve both dislocated workers in need of family-supporting jobs and employers with good jobs to fill,” Secretary Newson said. “Working with our partners, we will use the grant to empower these workers, preparing them for new employment opportunities.”

The workers were displaced due to the closure of four companies in the manufacturing sector: Joerns Healthcare, Inc., Stevens Point; SNE Enterprises, Inc. (SNE), Mosinee; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., Two Rivers, and Wausau Paper Printing and Writing, LLC, Brokaw. Layoffs began last December. Workers from Joerns, Thermo Fisher and Wausau Paper have been certified as eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance.

DWD and its regional partners polled affected workers during rapid response sessions that followed plant closing notices. Based on the results, the more than \$2 million National Emergency Grant (NEG), awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), will be used to upgrade their job skills, preparing them for in-demand occupations in such high-growth areas as the food industry, healthcare and information technology.

Secretary Newson said the NEG award comes as Wisconsin is drawing national attention as a state poised for economic growth. According to the latest employer survey by ManpowerGroup Inc., Wisconsin ranks seventh among the 50 states in the brightest job outlook over the next three months.

Secretary Newson also noted that in recent weeks, the number of job openings posed by employers on www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com has been ranged from 39,000 to 40,000 or more. The listings have been running higher than unprecedented 2011 postings.

DWD’s partners, the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, Inc. and North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., will provide the services to affected workers in the following counties: Adams, Brown, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Portage, and Wood.

For information about dislocated worker program:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dislocatedworker/worker_info.htm