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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

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## **Secretary Newson Highlights GE Partnership Preparing Veterans for Success at Upcoming Milwaukee Job Fair**

*Also cites Governor's Year of Veteran proclamation, new laws to help veteran job seekers*

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today applauded General Electric for helping veterans prepare for the Veterans Career and Benefit Fair Thursday in Milwaukee, one of 16 job fairs DWD and its partners are holding for veterans this year.

"This is just the sort of team work that we need, and it's what Governor Walker had in mind when he issued his Year of the Veteran proclamation, calling us all to serve our veterans," Secretary Newson said. "With the help of GE Veterans Network, close to 30 veterans signed up for and completed a specialized workshop to prepare for tomorrow's job fair. These are veterans seeking health care jobs. For other veterans, the job fair offers employment opportunities in manufacturing, sales and many other areas."

Secretary Newson said the GE Veterans Network and DWD Office of Veterans Services joined forces to help veterans interested in health care jobs get ready for the job fair, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Milwaukee County WAR Memorial Center. On Monday, July 9, the GE Veterans Network, which is comprised of GE employees who are veterans, hosted the Milwaukee Employment Workshop at the GE Health Institute in Waukesha for interested veterans. Twenty-nine veterans took part in the workshop and received information on networking, transferable skills, resume tips and interview skills, and took part in one-on-one mock interviews and resume critiques.

The workshop participants will join hundreds of other veterans at Thursday's job fair, which currently has 45 registered employers including 38 federal contractors and seven government agencies. In all, they have 2,775 positions to fill. Besides health care, the federal contractors include the following sectors: manufacturing, telecommunications, information technology, banking and financial services, and retail sales. Government agencies include Homeland Security, VA health services, forest service, Milwaukee Police Department, as well as county and state agencies.

In addition to declaring 2012 Year of the Veteran, Governor Walker directed DWD to join the Department of Veterans Affairs in holding 16 job fairs for veterans this year. Governor Walker also signed legislation to help veterans, especially returning veterans, succeed in finding employment. Secretary Newson cited several new initiatives that took effect July 1, 2012, under Governor Walker's "Wisconsin Working" agenda. They include:

- 2011 Wisconsin Act 209 – creates the Veterans Professional/Occupational Licensure Fee Waiver Program requiring WDVA to establish and maintain a program in which 13 state agencies grant fee waivers to qualified veterans when issuing initial licenses.
- Wisconsin Act 120 - enables veterans to request consideration of their military training, education and experience to satisfy licensure requirements.

(more)

- Wisconsin Act 210 – provides reciprocal occupational credentials to the spouse of a service member who has been assigned to Wisconsin. It also updates requirements for license extension or renewal for service members on active duty.

A new WDVA web page at <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-FeeWaiver.asp> offers more details about the program and how veterans can apply.

“Connecting veterans with jobs and removing obstacles to employment for veterans and their spouses is our top priority,” WDVA Secretary John Scocos said. “Through veteran-specific career fairs, listening sessions and other outreach initiatives, we are addressing the unique challenges veterans have to finding employment.”

“Thanks to the new initiatives signed by Governor Walker, Wisconsin's veterans will have additional support in their pursuit of new employment opportunities,” Secretary Newson said. “These brave men and women have done so much to protect our nation's freedom, and connecting them to new job opportunities is one way we can show our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made.”

*For more information:* <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/>  
<http://yearoftheveteran.com/>