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## **Secretary Newson: Manufacturing Day Offers Employers Opportunities to Showcase Facilities, Dispel Misconceptions**

*During visit to Waukesha Metal, Secretary urges the public to see clean, high-tech workplaces first-hand*

SUSSEX – During a visit today to Waukesha Metal, which has facilities in Sussex and Grafton, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today urged youths, parents, teachers and others to visit local manufacturing companies and observe just how far the clean, state-of-the-art environments of today differ from the outdated perception of manufacturing as dark, dirty and dangerous places to work.

“Companies like Waukesha Metal offer good-paying and challenging career pathways, and open house events like those on Manufacturing Day help these employers share their stories,” Secretary Newson said. “In the meantime, we will continue to work under Governor Walker’s leadership to advance initiatives that ensure manufacturers find the skilled workers they need to be successful. The Governor has made the creation of a skilled workforce a top initiative.”

The Secretary’s visit coincides with Manufacturing Day, celebrated in Wisconsin by DWD, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) and other workforce stakeholders. Manufacturing Day was developed by the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the National Association for Manufacturing. Manufacturing Day is an opportunity for local manufacturers and vocational training providers to open their doors and provide insight about manufacturing as a good career option. For more information and a list of open house events, visit [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com).

Secretary Newson visited Waukesha Metal during a Manufacturing Day open house for the community. Joining the Secretary was Buckley Brinkman, WMEP’s CEO and Executive Director.

Governor Walker has identified the development of a skilled workforce as a top budget priority. Jeff Clark, President of Waukesha Metal, serves on the Governor’s College and Workforce Readiness Council, which has been charged with recommending improvements to Wisconsin’s education system to encourage and promote vocational training options that support state manufacturers and other sectors.

Governor Walker also has proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month. Secretary Newson and other workforce leaders will be visiting manufacturers around Wisconsin during the month to raise awareness of manufacturing as a good career option. The average wage in manufacturing is approximately 20% higher than the state’s average weekly wage.