

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Workforce Development
Scott Walker, Governor
Reginald J. Newson, Secretary

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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

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DWD Secretary Welcomes Employers, Job Seekers to Southeast Wisconsin Career Expo

Innovative recruitment event draws over 70 employers, hundreds of pre-registered job seekers

KENOSHA – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today welcomed hundreds of job seekers and over 70 employers to the Southeast Wisconsin Career Expo at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Sports & Activity Center. Secretary Newson described the event as another sign of Wisconsin's growing economy under Governor Walker's leadership.

"Just last week, we released actual employment data showing Wisconsin added over 62,000 jobs in two years under Governor Walker compared to 134,000 jobs lost the previous four years," Secretary Newson said. "Today's recruitment event offers additional evidence that Wisconsin's economy is improving and many opportunities are out there. We have employers that are here to fill a host of job openings, and we have job seekers who have prepared resumes and taken additional steps to demonstrate they are ready to get to work today."

Examples of jobs that registered employers want to fill include CNC Machinists, paying up to \$52,000 a year; IT Technician, paying up to \$60,000 a year; Registered Nurses, up to \$55,000 a year; firefighters and police officers, from \$42,000 to \$63,400 a year, and sales representatives, \$40,000 a year and more.

DWD is co-sponsoring the Southeast Wisconsin Career Expo with the Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth County Job Centers. It is the third event of its kind that DWD organized to match employers that have openings with job seekers who have completed one-on-one counseling, developed a professional resume and cover letter and completed other pre-screening activities in advance.

A year ago, DWD and its partners held the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo at State Fair Park. Last fall, the Bay Area Career Expo was held at Shopko Hall in Green Bay. Over 170 employers and 3,000 job seekers took part in the two expos combined. In follow-up surveys, businesses gave high marks to the career expos and many noted that permanent hires resulted from direct connections made at each event.

"Thanks to our first two career expos, we know of at least 200 job offers that were made to parents, grandparents and other workers looking for opportunities to make ends meet, put food on the table and support themselves and their families," Secretary Newson said. "Whether through career expos, workforce training and other efforts, we will do everything we can to help Wisconsinites find new job opportunities and pursue their own paths toward independence and prosperity."

(more)

While at the expo, Secretary Newson cited other examples of job growth under Governor Walker's leadership, based on actual job counts released last week. Key highlights include:

- The two years of private sector job gains in Wisconsin under Governor Walker are the best two-year gains under any Governor in over a decade.
- Wisconsin created more manufacturing jobs in the last two years than in either of the last two Governors' terms.
- Initial unemployment insurance claims are at pre-recession levels.
- Whether increased revenue collections, lower Unemployment Insurance claims, or more new business formations, all economic indicators show Wisconsin is creating jobs.
- In 2012, Wisconsin had the largest growth in construction jobs in over a decade.
- Wages by private employers grew by 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the fourth quarter of 2011, up to \$26 billion from \$24.5 billion.