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Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment Releases Annual Report

Report shows bipartisan panel increased opportunities in 2012 for minority residents in Milwaukee area

MADISON – Governor Scott Walker's Task Force on Minority Unemployment has issued its 2012 Annual Report. The report shows that the bipartisan group's activities positively impacted thousands of lives in the Milwaukee area throughout the year.

"Governor Walker has made supporting private-sector job creation a key focus of his administration," said Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, chair of the Task Force. "During its inaugural year, the Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment has led efforts to increase opportunity for Milwaukee-area residents and address the unacceptably high minority unemployment rate in the community. We look forward to pursuing additional strategies to create even more opportunities in 2013 and in the years to come."

"Our commitment is to support all Wisconsin residents as they move towards independence," added Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson, a member of the Task Force. "In the first two years of Governor Walker's term, Wisconsin has already added more than 62,000 private-sector jobs. Our efforts in the coming year will build on the opportunities that have already been created for thousands of working families."

The Governor's Council on Workforce Investment is currently chaired by Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch and was co-chaired last year by former state Rep. Elizabeth Coggins. The group includes elected officials and representatives of non-profit organizations, employers, and faith-based organizations in the Milwaukee area. Task force members discussed the 2012 Annual Report during its meeting earlier this week at Goodwill Industries in Milwaukee. Highlights include:

- Support for the My Life! My Plan! program. The program served more than 1,900 high school students in the Milwaukee area through a half-day career workshop that included career exploration, mentorship by area business leaders, and post-secondary career planning.
- Hosting a Driver's License Recovery Event. The August 25 event helped more than 170 Milwaukee residents to regain their driver's license, a critical success factor for job seekers.
- Engaging the Milwaukee Re-entry Network to develop mechanisms to empower individuals re-entering the community.
- Working collaboratively with employers to promote careers in transportation and logistics for Milwaukee residents.

The task force, convened in 2012 as a sub-committee of the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment, is charged with finding long-term solutions to the longstanding problem of high minority unemployment in the Milwaukee area, and supporting efforts to increase career opportunities.

The group's activities reach across the region and include areas being served through the Governor's Transform Milwaukee Initiative. The comprehensive initiative is led by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to restore and grow Wisconsin's economy.

The Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment's 2012 Annual Report is available [online](#).