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Lt. Governor Kleefisch, DWD Secretary Newson, State Superintendent Evers Visit Ultra Tool and Manufacturing to Highlight Strength of Manufacturing

Visit coincides with national celebration of Manufacturing Day

MENOMONEE FALLS – Lt. Governor Kleefisch, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson, State Superintendent Tony Evers, and Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership Executive Director Buckley Brinkman toured Ultra Tool & Manufacturing in Menomonee Falls as part of the national celebration of Manufacturing Day today, October 4.

Ultra Tool hosted nearly 100 students from Arrowhead High School, Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Germantown High School, and Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Students had the opportunity to tour Ultra Tool's facility and meet with representatives from Waukesha County Technical College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Moraine Park Technical College. Students who attend also had the opportunity to follow the manufacturing process from raw materials to a finished product, and see the sophistication and skills required for today's manufacturing jobs.

"Manufacturers in Wisconsin are a major contributor to Wisconsin's economy, adding thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs and creating career opportunities for working families around Wisconsin," said Lt. Governor Kleefisch. "Under Governor Walker's leadership, manufacturers have added thousands of openings not only for welders and machinists, but also IT professionals, accountants, and workers in many other rewarding and challenging occupations."

"The manufacturing industry is an important part of Wisconsin's economy," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "Throughout October, not only will we celebrate manufacturing, but we'll also recognize some of the exceptional technical education programs we have in our public high schools that are preparing students for success after graduation."

Manufacturing Day is being celebrated on October 4th by manufacturers across the country that are opening their shop floors to students and members of the public. The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership are coordinating the event nationally. Twenty-six businesses in Wisconsin are hosting events on Manufacturing Day.

Governor Walker has proclaimed October Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin. During the month, he will join Lt. Governor Kleefisch, members of the Governor's Cabinet, officials from Wisconsin's technical colleges, K – 12 education, industry organizations and businesses to highlight manufacturing during various events.

"Wisconsin manufacturers employ nearly 450,000 workers in good-paying jobs," Secretary Newson said. "The average wage for a manufacturing worker in Wisconsin is \$52,000, or \$11,000 more than the average wage for all Wisconsin workers. I encourage any students or workers seeking a good-paying, stable job to consider a career in manufacturing."

(more)

Governor Walker has made workforce development a top priority of his administration. In the 2013 – 2015 biennial budget, the Governor included more than \$100 million in new resources for workforce development, including funds for DWD, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin. The funds will support a number of initiatives, including Wisconsin Fast Forward, which allots \$15 million to fund employer-led worker training grants for skilled occupations.

For more information: <http://www.wimanufacturingmonth.org>