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Secretary Newson Highlights Bradley High School "Tech Terns" Program During Career & Technical Education Month Event at Froedtert Hospital Site

State Superintendent Evers joins Secretary Newson in meeting students, school-to-work partners

MILWAUKEE – During a Career and Technical Education Month event today, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson cited Milwaukee Bradley Tech High School's new Tech Terns initiative as a promising example to follow in preparing a new generation of skilled workers.

"Governor Walker has declared February Career and Technical Education Month, a time to highlight innovative programs such as the Bradley 'Tech Terns' initiative," Secretary Newson said. "With its focus on construction, the program lets students explore career opportunities in architecture, engineering, construction management and the building trades. It serves as a great model for educators and partners in other sectors, and I congratulate Bradley Tech and all involved in this promising, collaborative effort."

Secretary Newson and State Superintendent Tony Evers met with students in the Tech Terns program during a Career Tech Ed stop at the construction site of Froedtert Hospital on the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center Campus in Wauwatosa.

The Tech Terns initiative was launched last fall, and organizers believe this is a first-of-its-kind career pathway development program in the United States.

Offered at Milwaukee Public Schools' Bradley Tech High School, the innovative program includes a two-year curriculum that enables students to explore and perform hands-on work in the design, construction, and operation of a building currently under construction: the 480,000-square-foot Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Advanced Care.

Eighteen Tech Terns are spending their high school junior and senior years learning both in the classroom and on the construction site to discover more about the roles of various professionals in a creating a major medical facility. From architecture and engineering to plumbing, interior design, and heavy machinery operations, the program enables students to explore a range of careers, including those requiring apprenticeship, two- or four-year degrees, or a combination of postsecondary experiences.

Tech Terns is a partnership among Cannon Design, Mortenson Construction, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP, and Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. Architects, construction managers, technical and trades people, and hospital employees developed the curriculum, serve as on-site instructors, and collaborate with the Milwaukee Public Schools Career and Technical Education program and Bradley Tech.