
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

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DWD Secretary Newson Visits Innovative School-to-Work and Technical College Programs in Central Wisconsin

Pittsville CTE Academy and Mid-State Technical College connect local students with employers

MARSHFIELD – During a visit today to central Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson visited the Career and Technical Education Academy at Pittsville High School, attended a luncheon hosted by Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited Mid-State Technical College's stainless steel welding lab in Marshfield, and toured Innovative Machine Specialists, a metal fabricator that helped to develop the Stainless Steel Welding certificate at Mid-State Technical College.

"Governor Walker's vision for workforce development includes equipping students with in-demand skills in partnership with Wisconsin businesses," said Secretary Newson. "The Governor's investment in targeted resources has given companies the ability to train workers for specific needs that result in additional jobs or wage increases for Wisconsin workers."

Pittsville High School has developed a Career and Technical Education Academy for all high school juniors and seniors that includes soft skills development, financial literacy instruction, and career observation. Local businesses including accountants, chiropractors, dentists, physical therapists, agriculture, and food processing participate in the program, serving as job shadowing and internship sites.

During their junior year, students complete several job shadows in areas of interest and take a financial literacy class. Senior students participate in a capstone course, which may include a career internship, service learning experience, or participation in a virtual class.

In Marshfield, Secretary Newson met with area employers and presented on the Governor's Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training initiative, which allocated \$15 million for employer-defined training that prepares unemployed or underemployed workers for job openings or incumbent workers for wage increases. The first round of the program awarded \$2.6 million to employers around Wisconsin, including Global Finishing Solutions, Plank Enterprises, and the Wisconsin Operating Engineers.

Additionally, Secretary Newson visited Mid-State Technical College's Marshfield Campus to tour the stainless steel welding lab. The program was created in response to interest from a number of area employers. Completion results in a certificate which can directly transfer into the Welding technical diploma program.

In his state of the state speech in January 2014, Governor Walker proposed a "Blueprint for Prosperity" that includes tax cuts and an additional \$35.4 million targeted in three areas, including reduction of wait lists in high-demand fields at area technical colleges, programs that result in industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields for high school students, and opportunities that enhance the employment prospects for workers with disabilities.