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## **Secretary Newson: Wausau Manufacturer Sets Example for Governor Walker's *Year of A Better Bottom Line* Initiative Promoting Skills of People with Disabilities**

*Congratulates new Linetec hire and manufacturer tapping his abilities to improve bottom line*

WAUSAU – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today congratulated Linetec for setting an example for Governor Walker's *Better Bottom Line* initiative, highlighting the skills and abilities of people with disabilities and encouraging employers to tap their talents because doing so will improve their bottom line.

Linetec, manufacturer of aluminum windows, wall systems, doors and other architectural metal components, recently hired Jay Kufahl as a lab tech. Kufahl, who has a hearing disability, had been laid off from an earlier job and was able only to find part-time work until he connected with Linetec with the help of DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

"In Jay's case, he held a job previously, but was laid off," Secretary Newson said. "Today, he's working again, thanks to Linetec, who saw in him a job applicant with abilities, someone who could contribute to the Linetec team and add value to the company. There are many others like Jay who have much to offer, and that's why Governor Walker has declared this *The Year of a Better Bottom Line* and encouraged employers to consider hiring people with disabilities because they can improve a company's bottom line to the benefit of both the employer and the worker."

With his State of the State address in January, Governor Walker proclaimed 2014 *The Year of A Better Bottom Line* and plans to spend the year highlighting successful operations thanks in part to the contributions of people with disabilities, while urging other employers to consider an often overlooked skilled and capable workforce.

DVR assists over 17,000 individuals with disabilities, and in fiscal year 2013, it helped 3,840 consumers achieve their employment goals. These newly employed individuals are projected to earn \$66.3 million annually, more than double the taxpayer investment in their services.

In December, Governor Walker signed legislation providing over \$2 million in additional state funding per year so that DVR can secure more federal aid to serve more people with disabilities. More recently, he signed legislation authorizing \$35 million more in funding for his *Wisconsin Fast Forward* initiative. DVR will share in the funding and use its portion to help expedite services for people with disabilities.

For more about the Governor's *Better Bottom Line Initiative*, visit:

<http://walker.wi.gov/newsroom/press-release/year-better-bottom-line-governor-scott-walker-visits-mosinee-cold-storage>

For more about DVR services, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>.