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Secretary Perez Cites Wisconsin's Competitive Business Edge

At Governor's Conference on Economic Development, State Labor Secretary highlights DWD's role to help attract and retain companies, facilitate sustainable employment

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Manny Perez said today Wisconsin has much to offer companies in Illinois and elsewhere in the nation that are considering relocation to the Badger State.

“Governor Walker has signed a series of special session bills to provide tax relief and encourage economic development,” Secretary Perez said. “These bold steps, along with more aggressive steps to come, strengthen Wisconsin's competitive edge. We have a dedicated and talented workforce, solid safety record and low worker's compensation costs. All of this and more sets Wisconsin above other states.”

In addressing the Governor's Conference on Economic Development, Secretary Perez cited Wisconsin's strong work ethic. Wisconsin has a labor force participation rate that is higher than the national average. He also noted Wisconsin's record on workplace safety, reflected by the state having the lowest worker's compensation premiums among Midwest states and the fifth lowest average cost per case in the nation.

In addition, Secretary Perez highlighted support for increased collaboration and coordination among Workforce Development Boards, the Wisconsin Technical College System, local economic development regions and chambers of commerce, with all organizations aligned to meet private sector labor needs.

Until his appointment, Secretary Perez was President and Co-owner of JNA Staffing, Inc., in Milwaukee. He previously was North American Product Manager for Manpower Managed Services, Manpower, Inc., Milwaukee.

With 1,645 employees, DWD works with employers to fill jobs, provides training and employment services to workers, helps people with disabilities gain employment and independence, enforces workers' rights, and administers Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation programs.