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For Immediate Release

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Governor Walker Introduces New Council on Workforce Investment; Additional Private Sector Members Will Help Achieve Job Creation Goals

Council to provide guidance on more flexible, effective workforce development system

OAK CREEK – Governor Scott Walker today introduced his administration’s Council on Workforce Investment, noting additional private sector members have been added to help maintain job creation momentum and meet a goal of 250,000 jobs by 2015.

“With nearly 25,000 new private-sector jobs created so far this year, we are advancing Wisconsin’s economy and getting our state working again,” Governor Walker said. “A flexible and effective workforce system goes hand in hand with economic growth and job creation. The Council on Workforce Investment will play a critical advisory role in taking our workforce system to the next level. And, with greater private sector representation than ever before, this newly reconfigured Council will provide even better guidance on private sector needs and on targeting resources to more effectively meet those needs.”

The Council on Workforce Investment advises the Governor and the Department of Workforce Development on employment and training services and the allocation of federal funds, approximately \$55 million this year. The council consists of 39 members, state and local officials, private sector executives and labor leaders, all representing partners and stakeholders in workforce and economic development.

Returning as chair is Tim Sullivan, CEO of Bucyrus International, in Oak Creek. Serving as executive director is Scott Baumbach, DWD Interim Secretary. In addition to returning private sector members, the council has 17 new representatives from the business community.

Governor Walker defined his workforce system objectives as follows:

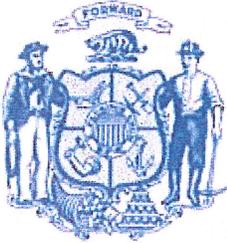
- Anticipate employer labor needs while building and strengthening Wisconsin’s workforce;
- Support the development of a highly qualified labor force, and
- Empower individuals to pursue and retain good paying careers.

Department of Workforce Development Interim Secretary Scott Baumbach said the council has already begun work on strategies to improve the alignment of education and job training systems, target resources more effectively by economic region and industry

sectors, and allocate funds giving priority to regional partnerships that create pathways and ensure a pipeline of skilled workers.

“By creating a better alignment between and stronger collaborations across public, private, educational and other stakeholders, we will create a stronger, more nimble workforce development system that furthers job creation efforts under Governor Walker’s leadership,” Secretary Baumbach said.

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Wisconsin's Council on Workforce Investment
Presentation of Recommendations to Governor Walker



Governor's Key Workforce Investment Priorities

Vision

The Governor's vision is to create a flexible statewide workforce system that:

- ▶ Anticipates employer labor needs while building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce;
- ▶ Supports the development of a highly qualified labor force; and,
- ▶ Empowers individuals to pursue and retain good paying careers.

Workforce Investment Priorities

In order to achieve this, the Governor's key workforce investment priorities include:

- ▶ Improving the alignment between the skills needed by private sector employers and the education and job training systems that provide the pipeline of workers;
- ▶ Coordinating federal and state economic and workforce development funds to target resources more effectively, and to explore options such as federal waivers that support innovative solutions;
- ▶ Designating specific employment sectors for priority spending based on regional sector strategy priorities and sufficient evidence of labor demand;
- ▶ Allocating funds to regions where business, the K-12 system, post secondary education and training systems (technical colleges/universities) and other key stakeholders and regional sectors are aligned in purpose, and have a pathway in place to develop skilled workers in demand while still providing local regions with the ability to make spending decisions; developing a collective strategy that leads to a pathway;
- ▶ Improving sector alignment of mutual purposes by requiring each Economic Development Board to have a Workforce Development Board representative;
- ▶ Aligning school system curricula with the education and training needed for successful job placements, including basic education requirements for all systems along with the ability to tailor programming to reflect the needs of a local area; local regions would be able to modify their curricula based on regional employers' skilled worker pipeline needs;
- ▶ Improving accountability and transparency in order to measure success and prioritize future funding based on outcomes; and,
- ▶ Researching and incorporating best practices from other states to support an effective, well-coordinated programming system that is in line with federal requirements.

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