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Lt. Governor Kleefisch, DWD Secretary Newson Welcome Job Seekers, Employers to Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo

One-day recruiting blitz connects individuals to possible employment opportunities

WEST ALLIS – Setting a new standard in recruitment, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today welcomed hundreds of job seekers to the 2012 Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo, an opportunity at State Fair Park to connect with over 70 employers ready to fill approximately 1,000 openings.

“Governor Walker has proclaimed this Manufacturing Awareness Week in Wisconsin, and the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo puts the spotlight on many rewarding careers this key sector has to offer,” Lt. Governor Kleefisch said. “Jobs with good pay are available, a sure sign we’re moving Wisconsin in the right direction under Governor Walker’s leadership.”

The one-day recruiting event at the State Fair Exposition Center was open only to employers that have jobs to fill and job seekers who demonstrated in advance that they are work ready. Job seekers met with employers with a variety of jobs to fill, ranging from around \$10 an hour for general production workers to the mid \$30 per hour and more for highly skilled positions.

“In his Wisconsin Working plan, Governor Walker directed DWD and its partners to double our efforts to connect job seekers to jobs, by holding at least twice as many job fairs this year as last year,” Secretary Newson said. “We’re not only doing that, but taking a new approach to job fairs, by accelerating the recruiting and hiring process. The manufacturing sector is leading Wisconsin’s economic recovery, and the strong response we’re seeing today reaffirms that employers are looking to fill positions.”

Secretary Newson said he was pleased by the enthusiastic response by job seekers and employers. Among the registered employers was GenMet Corporation, a metal fabricator located in Mequon.

“For GenMet, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with pre-screened job seekers interested in manufacturing,” said Missy Propper, GenMet’s Director of Administration. “We are far more likely to find the workers we need at this career expo than at a regular job fair. The expo serves another very important purpose by calling attention to rewarding careers in manufacturing, helping GenMet and other manufacturers find the skilled workers we need now and in the future.”

The more than 1,300 job seekers included Tom Schabowski of Milwaukee, who is about to earn a technical college degree in advanced manufacturing from Waukesha County Technical College.

“After working for three decades, I returned to school,” Schabowski said. “I’ll soon be graduating from Waukesha County Technical College, and the Milwaukee Manufacturing Career Expo gives me an opportunity to show my degree in Automation Systems Technology and pursue meaningful employment.”