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DWD Executive Assistant Maxwell Visits Fox Valley Technical College, Highlights Partnership in Advanced Manufacturing Training

At Manufacturing Month event, she cites efforts to address skills gap, ensure skilled workforce

APPLETON – On behalf of Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson, Executive Assistant Georgia Maxwell today visited the Advanced Manufacturing Systems Lab at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and said the training partnership with FVTC represents the collaborative effort needed to address the skills gap and ensure a skilled workforce in the future.

“Under Governor Walker’s leadership, we are working to address the skills gap and improve the workforce system so that we can provide the skilled workers necessary to advance the economy for years to come,” said Executive Assistant Maxwell, a gubernatorial appointee. “Manufacturing is a vital sector, and the training underway at Fox Valley Technical College is an example of what we can achieve. Here we see dislocated workers and other job seekers begin career paths to family-supporting jobs in manufacturing. We also see a college partnering with manufacturers and schools to alert our youth to the opportunities and rewarding careers in manufacturing.”

Fox Valley Technical College recently received a \$2.9 million grant for its Advanced Manufacturing Pathways PLUS project. The federal Trade Adjustment Act funding will provide flexible training for nearly 400 dislocated workers, veterans and low-wage workers seeking better jobs. The project builds on the Wisconsin Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE) initiative to create bridges and career pathways that enable and empower individuals to build skills, earn stackable credentials and move up the ladder to better jobs with good pay and benefits.

Governor Walker proclaimed October 2012 as Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin. In addition to recent grant, Executive Assistant Maxwell cited other ways the college, DWD and stakeholders are working together to meet the manufacturing sector’s workforce needs now and in the future. On May 5, Manufacturing Day, the college, employers and workforce partners welcomed approximately 70 high school students to the Oshkosh campus to explore career opportunities in manufacturing.

Executive Assistant Maxwell also noted efforts to improve training programs and reform the workforce system, including Secretary Newson’s leadership role on the Governor’s College and Workforce Readiness Council, the Council on Workforce Investment and the Minority Unemployment Task Force. Governor Walker made workforce system reform a priority when he established the workforce readiness council as part of his Wisconsin Working plan.

“As Secretary Newson has said, we look forward to reviewing recommendations of all stakeholders and advancing those that are in line with the Governor’s budget priorities,” Executive Assistant Maxwell said.