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Secretary Newson Presents Berlin Manufacturer with Governor's Award for Employment Practices to Encourage Hiring of People with Disabilities

Visit to Magnum Power Products also highlights Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin

BERLIN – During a visit today to Magnum Power Products, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson presented the Berlin-based manufacturer with a Governor's Exemplary Award for its commitment to employ people with disabilities.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, we have worked with regional partners and the private sector to empower individuals and set them on a path to independence and greater self-sufficiency," Secretary Newson said. "On the Governor's behalf, I am pleased to recognize Magnum Power Products for its commitment to employment practices that encourage the full participation of people with disabilities."

Governor Walker proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Magnum Power Products is a leading manufacturer of powerful, high-quality light towers, mobile generators and pumps used by construction companies and other customers, and it has been a strong partner with the DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) in providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Secretary Newson noted Magnum Power Products proactively contacts the DVR to see if there's a qualified DVR consumer available to fill job openings, and has hired several consumers who started out as on-the-job training (OJT) placements. In addition, the company has made accommodations for many DVR consumers to ensure they can perform their job duties.

DVR is the state's premier program to provide employment services and counseling to people with disabilities who face substantial barriers to employment. In 2013, DVR served more than 17,000 Wisconsin residents with disabilities and placed 3,840 people in jobs. These newly employed individuals are projected to earn \$66.3 million annually, which is more than double the taxpayer investment in their services. DVR's budget is 78.7% federal funded with a 21.3% state match required for each federal dollar allotted to Wisconsin.

During the visit, Secretary Newson took the opportunity to highlight the contributions of manufacturers like Magnum Power Products to Wisconsin's economy, as Governor Walker also proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin.

"As a manufacturer, Magnum Power Products is part of an industry sector that employs nearly 450,000 workers in Wisconsin and contributes \$50 billion to the state's economic output," Secretary Newson said. "Anyone seeking a good-paying, stable job in a challenging and rewarding career field should consider manufacturing."

(more)

Governor Walker has made workforce development a top priority of his administration. In the 2013 – 2015 biennial budget, the Governor included more than \$100 million in new resources for workforce development, including funds for DWD, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin. The funds will support a number of initiatives, including Wisconsin Fast Forward, which allots \$15 million to fund employer-led worker training grants for skilled occupations.

For more information:

Manufacturing Month: <http://www.wimanufacturingmonth.org>

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>