

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Secretary Gassman Promotes Governor Doyle's Workforce Agenda Preparing Wisconsinites for 21st Century Labor Market



Photos by: Judy Winkler



In Wisconsin Rapids, State Labor Secretary Roberta Gassman, highlights efforts to assist workers.

7/26/2010 – Wisconsin Rapids—Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman delivered the message that Governor Doyle's workforce agenda is preparing individuals for skilled jobs in the 21st century, and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding he recently announced will help move this vision to reality.

“The workforce programs being carried out in Wisconsin Rapids and across Wisconsin provide opportunities for workers to build their skills and prepare for opportunities in high-growth industries,” Secretary Gassman said. “Helping workers gain the skills they need to succeed in today’s labor market is vital as Wisconsin continues its recovery from a deep national recession.”

During a visit last Thursday to Mid-State Technical College, Secretary Gassman highlighted the \$4.55 million WIA funding that Governor Doyle announced in early July that will help thousands of workers gain skills to succeed in the future economy. The funding, along with the \$5.89 million the Governor announced last year, brings total WIA funding in Wisconsin to more than \$10 million.

WIA-funded grants supported training for approximately 33,000 workers last year, including Opportunity Grants, which provide up to \$1,000 a year for workers in low-wage jobs to receive technical college training and begin career paths in high-growth areas such as advanced manufacturing and healthcare.

During her visit, Secretary Gassman met with Deb Gentz, one of the more than 330 Opportunity Grant recipients who have been enrolled in the program statewide. Gentz is a former dislocated worker who graduated from Mid-State Technical College in December 2009 with an associate’s degree in business management and is now employed as an Exceptional Needs Specialist at the Opportunity Development Center in Marshfield.

Secretary Gassman also met with several dislocated workers who have gained advanced certification through the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) system, which received a \$350,000 boost earlier this month by Governor Doyle. Recognized workers receiving MSSC certifications were Joan O’Neil; Donna Beadle; Tim Thurber; and Dave Burgeson. Other workforce program participants recognized during the event by Secretary Gassman, were Ann Brice; Jeanette Eauslin; Chris Dachel; Jacki Archibald; Stephen Archibald; Michelle Weronke; Darlene Kuehl; and Lucinda Richter.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about training opportunities supported through WIA funding should contact the North Central WI Workforce Development Board or your local Job Center. For Job Center locations, go to JobCenterOfWisconsin.com, or call, 888-258-9966.

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NCWWDB: The North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board is a public / private partnership between government and business that plans, administers and coordinates Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employment and training programs for adults and youth in the North Central Wisconsin counties of Adams, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood. Visit NCWWDB at: www.ncwwdb.org.

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