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Nation's Workforce Leaders Highlight Skills Training to Grow Economy and Help Get Americans Back to Work

At national conference in Wisconsin, over 25 states cite On-the-Job Training, other programs that are growing skills, growing jobs and growing America

MADISON, Wisconsin – Iowa Workforce Development Director Elisabeth Buck joined fellow workforce leaders from over 25 states to highlight how states and the national workforce system are helping to put America back to work.

“On-the-job training programs have the potential to boost Iowa’s economy by providing excellent employment opportunities while providing Iowa employers a unique opportunity to train and review new employees with support from the workforce system,” stated Buck. “Companies such as John Deere, Nationwide and Iowa Health Systems are supportive of the training programs and their benefits for Iowa.”

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) is holding its annual conference this week in Madison, Wisconsin, drawing leaders from across the country whose agencies oversee employment and training services, Unemployment Insurance, veterans services, one-stop job center partnerships, and other vital workforce programs.

Leaders took a break from the conference agenda to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in support of workforce programs such as On-the-Job Training (OJT), which this year received \$75 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

U.S. DOL Secretary Hilda L. Solis announced the funding in June to jumpstart re-employment for thousands of dislocated workers by providing partial reimbursement to employers for training costs for new employees, while giving employees jobs and the opportunity to develop needed new skills quickly.

States represented in support of workforce system programs include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Employers or workers interested in learning more about available training programs can contact their local workforce centers. Contact information is available at www.iowaworkforce.org/centers/files/offices.htm.

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