



What Wisconsin leaders are saying about Governor Walker's Workforce Agenda

“Eighty percent of Wisconsin’s business leaders say they are having trouble finding workers, according to the latest WMC economic survey. Attracting more workers of all skill levels to Wisconsin is the right solution, which is why the WMC survey shows that 81 percent of business leaders support Governor Walker’s plan. Wisconsin is the best kept secret in the Midwest. Walker’s plan will help get the secret out and bring talent to Wisconsin.”

- Kurt Bauer, President and CEO, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

“Businesses across the state need employees who work collaboratively and possess critical problem-solving skills needed to succeed in today’s workplace. While about 85 percent of UW System graduates remain in Wisconsin, the governor’s talent marketing outreach initiative aligns directly with our goal of continuing to connect UW students, alumni and young professionals with career opportunities in Wisconsin. We look forward to seeing UW alumni throughout the U.S. come home and support our rapidly expanding workforce needs.”

-Ray Cross, President, University of Wisconsin System

“When it comes to tech careers, Wisconsin has it all. From biotech to software, from health IT to Internet of Things, and from virtual reality to AI, the opportunities here for tech-savvy millennials are endless. The state’s talent attraction campaign included in Governor Walker’s Workforce Agenda will help increase awareness of all Wisconsin has to offer young professionals, transitioning veterans and Wisconsin alumni.”

- Tom Still, President, Wisconsin Technology Council

“The sleeping giant that is Wisconsin’s economy has been awakened and energized by Governor Walker’s business reforms. Opportunities for employers and talented people both here in Wisconsin and for those who want to share in the opportunity and prosperity have never been better. The governor’s Workforce Agenda will help ensure that folks living outside of Wisconsin are aware of those outstanding opportunities.”

- S. Mark Tyler, President, OEM Fabricators, Inc. (Woodville)

“Governor Walker’s Workforce Agenda is key to addressing our present and future talent challenges in western Wisconsin and throughout the state. Attracting, retaining and developing talent cannot be addressed with significant impact unless we work collectively on multiple levels. Organizations, municipalities, counties, local and regional economic development organizations and the state need to recognize and tackle this together. It’s great to see collaboration and support from the top tier.”

- Steve Jahn, Momentum West (west-central Wisconsin)

“Wisconsin’s business climate has been important to many successful businesses who are leaders in their respective markets. As a leader, we are continually creating opportunities for exciting careers and professional growth in a geographic area that offers an exceptional quality of life. Our success has largely been attributed to a talented team of people at our organization. We fully support the state’s new marketing campaign to attract talent to Wisconsin. “

- Jim Faragher, President, Global Finishing Solutions (Osseo)

“With global companies like Foxconn and Haribo soon establishing operations in the Milwaukee region, and with many existing metro Milwaukee businesses expanding, there is a growing need for talented workers to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. Addressing this challenge requires a multifaceted and coordinated effort to ensure we deliver a unified message promoting Wisconsin as a premier professional and lifestyle destination.”

- Pat O'Brien, Executive Director, Milwaukee 7

“It’s the people who drive our growth and success at Phillips-Medisize. To continue fueling our growth and success, we need talented and motivated people now, and going forward. We offer opportunities at every level of our organization and are excited and proud to participate in this exciting initiative for Wisconsin.”

– Matt Jennings, CEO, Phillips-Medisize (Menomonie)

“Central Wisconsin business leaders know the value that veterans bring to the workforce and the community. We support the state’s efforts to retain and attract veterans to address critical workforce shortages and look forward to the results this will bring to our communities.”

- Melissa Reichert, President, Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (Wausau)

“There are many skilled job openings across a variety of industry sectors in northern Wisconsin. Attracting new talent to our great state by highlighting those career opportunities as well as the outdoor recreation lifestyle that many millennials are seeking will support ongoing efforts to address our rural workforce needs. The governor’s Workforce Agenda complements the state’s recent investments in rural broadband and school Fab Labs, all of which will help attract top talent in our region and throughout the state.”

-Wendy Gehlhoff, Director, Florence County Economic Development

“In Green County and southwestern Wisconsin, manufacturing is alive and well - and growing. From artisan cheese and beer to metal fabrication and robotics, we take pride in what we make here. As our industries grow, we need to attract people who, like us, appreciate the satisfaction in what we build together. We support the state’s efforts to attract millennials, veterans and Wisconsin alumni as a way to address the workforce challenges of today and tomorrow.”

-Cara Carper, Green County Development Corporation

“Wisconsin offers young professionals unlimited opportunities in cutting-edge careers, including biotech, med-tech, advanced manufacturing, engineering and software. Pick your region, pick your lifestyle, Wisconsin has ‘it’. St. Croix EDC supports the state’s proactive outreach campaign to attract and grow Wisconsin’s workforce.”

–Bill Rubin, St. Croix Economic Development Corporation

“Wisconsin has a diverse and dynamic economy that offers incredible career and business opportunities. Wisconsin is very well positioned to win the competition for talent. We support the state’s new talent marketing initiative and are excited to be part of it.”

-Todd Battle, President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance

“The Madison region as well as the entire state offer young professionals numerous opportunities not only for career advancement, but also for fulfilling and affordable social, recreational and cultural pursuits. Promoting our state’s many positive attributes to young professionals in Chicago and beyond will help fuel Wisconsin’s continued strong economic performance while maintaining the exceptional quality of life our citizens enjoy.”

- Paul Jadin, President, Madison Region Economic Partnership

“We have a lot to offer those relatively new to the workforce, both in the New North and across the state. We applaud the state for this proactive campaign, which complements the talent attraction efforts we have undertaken in northeast Wisconsin. There is an abundance of professional opportunities here, both in legacy industries and in areas of innovation. Beyond work, come here and you can live the affordable lifestyle you desire while also making a difference in the community.”

- Jerry Murphy, Executive Director, New North