



Wisconsin Economic Development Association

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Gov. Walker elevates workforce and broadband in State of the State

WEDA statement on State of the State address

“The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) applauds Governor Walker for his focus on workforce development and broadband in his State of the State address, two key issues that are increasingly impacting Wisconsin’s economic landscape.

“In his remarks, the governor acknowledged that Wisconsin’s ‘biggest challenge is not creating jobs, but finding people to fill them.’ WEDA agrees closing the skills gap to compete in a global economy is critical to building, as well as sustaining, economic prosperity. That is why WEDA supports a wide-array of strategies to grow Wisconsin’s skilled workforce, including transitional and incumbent worker reforms; talent recruitment and retention incentives for in-demand professions; and continuous alignment and flexibility from the entire K-16 education system.

“WEDA also appreciates the governor’s commitment to expanding Wisconsin’s broadband network. A modern, statewide broadband infrastructure is central to future economic development opportunities, particularly in rural areas of the state. In the 21st Century economy, businesses and individuals are unlikely to invest in a community that does not have high-speed internet access.

“WEDA looks forward to working with Governor Walker and the Legislature on these initiatives and other critical economic development issues during the current legislative session.”

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The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to expanding the economy of the State of Wisconsin. Founded in 1975, WEDA’s economic development professionals and active volunteers are dedicated to making Wisconsin a better place to live and work through economic development that focuses on retaining and expanding existing businesses; facilitating investment and entrepreneurship; and attracting new companies, employment opportunities and innovation capital.