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# Center on Wisconsin Strategy

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## **JOBS SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER PARTNERS FROM PRIVATE, PUBLIC SECTOR PARTICIPANTS GATHER TO EVALUATE FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS**

**Madison**—Business, government, and education leaders convened on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, to assess the changing economy in South Central Wisconsin and map out new strategies to prepare workers for quality jobs.

The discussion was part of “What Lies Ahead: Workforce of the Future,” the Second Annual Industry Partnerships Summit, held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

The Industry Partnerships Summit marks the close-out of a major job-training initiative targeted at workers in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette, and Sauk counties. The initiative was supported by a two-year, \$1.14 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Roberta Gassman, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), welcomed Summit participants. She was joined by Terry Ludeman, Chief of DWD’s Office of Economic Advisors and an expert on Wisconsin’s labor market. Leaders in health care and manufacturing addressed industry trends and touted the advantages of working together – and teaming up with technical colleges, Job Centers, and other institutions – to keep area businesses strong.

“This is a celebration,” said Pat Schramm, Director of Planning, Development, and Operations for the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, which applied for and administered the federal grant. “We’ve got a great group of companies that did incredible work over the past two years. We moved more than 725 workers into training that will help them do better in today’s – and tomorrow’s – economy.”

Two panels focused on industry-specific concerns: the effects of new technology in the manufacturing sector, and ways to create a sustainable nursing workforce in the state. The Summit ended with a presentation about older workers.

“Even though the Summit marks the end of the Labor Department grant, it’s really a new beginning – a chance to plan for the future,” said Schramm. “The results of the job-training initiative show what can happen when business and government work together.”

*Industry Partnerships is a project of Jobs With a Future (JWF), a partnership of employers, Job Centers, technical colleges, the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, and others that seeks to improve and align the workforce system in the region.*