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Press Release

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Wisconsin Workforce Association Wins National Award

The Wisconsin Workforce Development Association recently received a national award from The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) for their documented impact of the 2009 Summer Youth Program that was funded with American Recovery & Reinvestment Act money. The stories and data were published throughout the State of Wisconsin in the Wisconsin Workforce Association Development Association (WWDA) monthly newsletter titled the *Workforce Times*. The publication highlighted the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Programs operated by the eleven local Workforce Development Boards across the State. The local boards received approximately \$25.7 million statewide from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for youth, adults, and dislocated workers.

The National Association of Workforce Boards, in Washington, DC, recognized the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association specifically because their publication provided a statewide demonstration of the summer employment program's value and the program's impact on individual participants and the businesses who participated. Wisconsin was one of six winners out of a field of 70 submittals. The other national award recipients focused their stories on single cities, whereas the Wisconsin newsletter described the program's impact on both rural and urban areas, compiling stories from the eleven Wisconsin Workforce Development boards.

The newsletter provided youth success stories and current expenditures to federal and state legislators as well as the general public. WWDA Chairman Dan Racette states, "It was important to WWDA that we have transparency in our programs and show that the funds were being spent effectively and as intended."

Members of the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association will receive the award in March 2010 at the National Association of Workforce Boards' annual forum in Washington, DC.