



Media Release

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Rep. Shankland Congratulates Local Businesses on Fast Forward Grant Awards

MADISON – Friday, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced that it intends to award worker training grants in partnership with multiple Stevens Point area businesses as part of Round 3 of the Wisconsin Fast Forward initiative.

As described in the department’s award summary, the DWD will award the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board a \$189,642 grant in partnership with **Skyward Inc.**, **Sentry Insurance**, and **Delta Dental** to deliver highly customized information technology training to 60 incumbent workers and 17 underemployed individuals. The North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Mid-State Technical College, and UW-Stevens Point will work collaboratively to recruit candidates for consideration by these companies.

Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC of Plover will also partner with another grant recipient, Forward Service Corporation, to hire students trained for careers in construction through a \$6,384 grant that will expand Forward Service Corporation’s TrANS program into the Wausau area.

As the ranking Democrat on the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development, Rep. Shankland (D-Stevens Point) released the following statement:

“I am delighted that four of our local businesses will benefit from the Wisconsin Fast Forward grants. Skyward, Sentry Insurance, and Delta Dental are some of the largest employers in Central Wisconsin, and I’m excited by the opportunity these businesses will have to grow the skills of workers right here in our community. I also applaud Fahrner Asphalt Sealers LLC’s readiness to hire newly-trained construction workers as a grant project partner.

“The number one issue I hear from employers in the 71st Assembly District is the need for increased investment in skills training programs for employees. That’s why I voted for the bipartisan Wisconsin Fast Forward initiatives in 2013 and 2014. Workforce development is a crucial component of local economic growth and development, and the training these workers will receive strengthens our Central Wisconsin economy and gives workers long-term job security.”

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