



Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM GAINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Green Bay, Wis.- (Aug. 5, 2011) - In a recent report entitled *Pathways to Prosperity* prepared by Pathways to Prosperity Project of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship program was one of three exemplars of employee engagement for preparing young people for the future workforce. The report emphasized programs like the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners in Education Youth Apprenticeship program for helping students develop the skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century job market.

Pathways to Prosperity is a comprehensive assessment of a growing skills gap present in school districts across the country and addresses the challenges and successes of various programs dedicated to filling this gap.

The report recognizes that since its founding in the early 1990s, The Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship program has grown into the nation's largest apprenticeship opportunity for high school students. High school juniors and seniors are able to complete up to 900 hours of work-based learning and related programs across a two-year span. Apprenticeships are now available in nearly half of Wisconsin's school districts and the program serves approximately 2,000 students at a time. The report also recognizes that over 75 percent of youth apprenticeship graduates enroll in a technical college or university, and over 60 percent complete their degrees – a statistic far higher than the national average.

Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship is a statewide program with required competencies for individual areas that are identified by industry representatives across the state, while the curriculum for each industry is developed by area technical colleges. Individual consortiums such as the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners in Education deliver the program and initiate the Youth Apprenticeship curriculum in various industry areas. The areas are selected based on industry need and student interest of the community. When students complete

the competencies through the occupation-related classes and worksite training, the competency checklist is then submitted to the State and the students are awarded a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency.

"Partners in Education develops partnerships to provide relevant learning experiences for students for the development of our future workforce," said Nancy Schopf, Partners in Education's vice president of education and leadership. "The Youth Apprenticeship Program is an outstanding program with proven successes. Together, as Partners in Education – business and education working together – we can help learners and grow as a community."

For additional information on Partners in Education and its apprenticeship programs, contact Nancy Schopf at 920.593.3414 or schopf@titletown.org.

Established in 1882, the mission of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is to serve as the focal point of economic and community development. The Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is a four-star accredited Chamber through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Chamber programs include Advance, Partners in Education, Leadership Green Bay, Brown County Teen Leadership, Current Young Professionals Network, Good Government Council and the International Business Development Consortium.

For more information, call 920.437.8704 or visit titletown.org.

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