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Secretary Newson Appoints John Fandrich as Executive Assistant

As new member of top leadership team, Fandrich to work closely with Legislature, partners, stakeholders

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson today announced the appointment of John Fandrich as the agency's new Executive Assistant.

"As Executive Assistant, John will work with me and Deputy Secretary Jonathan Barry to see to Governor Walker's workforce initiatives and reforms, the most immediate being implementation of Wisconsin Fast Forward," Secretary Newson said. "He will work collaboratively with external partners including Wisconsin's elected officials, both in Congress and the Legislature, the business community, and other stakeholders in ensuring a skilled workforce. He is eminently qualified for the job, and I am pleased to have him on our team."

Fandrich has 20 years of public and private sector experience. He comes to DWD from the Department of Transportation (DOT) where he served in the Office of the Secretary as the agency's Economic Development Officer. As the DOT business liaison, he worked closely with the Legislature, business leaders, local officials and partners on economic development issues.

Fandrich entered state service in 1999 as a budget and policy analyst at DOT, advanced to the program officer responsible for managing the DOT Surplus Real Estate Program and joined the DOT leadership team in the Secretary's Office as Economic Development Officer in 2012. His private sector experience includes work as an assistant controller and operations accountant for several large companies, including the former Generac Portable Products LLC in Jefferson from 1997 to 1999.

Fandrich, of Monroe, earned a B.A. in business administration from Lakeland College in Sheboygan and has completed graduate MBA coursework from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Wisconsin Fast Forward is part of \$100 million in state-funded investments Governor Walker is making workforce development. Having received overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses of the Legislature, the recently enacted Wisconsin Fast Forward initiative includes \$15 million worker training grants, a DWD Office of Skills Development to administer the grant program, and a new, state-of-the-art Labor Market Information System that will key more on job skills than titles and provide real-time data to more effectively connect job seekers and employers.