

WSJ, April 26, 2007

## Worker certification plan starts

State Journal staff

A statewide manufacturing worker certification program is being initiated with a goal to certify at least 40 percent of Wisconsin's factory workers by 2016, Gov. Jim Doyle said Wednesday.

The program will test the competency of workers on a variety of manufacturing skills. Businesses and technical colleges, meanwhile, will collaborate to provide additional training.

Grants totaling \$250,000 will be allocated to Workforce Development Boards around the state to set up assessment centers that will test workers in four advanced skill areas: man-

ufacturing processes and production, safety, maintenance awareness and quality improvement. The money will also be used to train both instructors and employers.

The Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, in Madison, will get \$25,000.

Doyle also said he is establishing the Governor's Manufacturing Advisory Council. The organization will be made up of representatives of the state's manufacturing companies who will work together to modernize Wisconsin's manufacturing industry, streamline regulations, provide affordable health care and boost the skills of Wisconsin factory workers.