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Regional expo to link employers with resources to hire work-ready, formerly incarcerated workers

RACINE and KENOSHA – An upcoming expo aims to help employers struggling to find qualified workers to fill open positions.

The second annual Southeast Wisconsin Re-entry Employer Expo will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 at Gateway Technical College's SC Johnson iMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant.

Employers are encouraged to stop by this no-cost event as their schedules permit. Local dignitaries are scheduled to welcome morning guests during a public reception at 8 a.m.

The expo's primary purpose is to acquaint employers with agencies serving a significant, often untapped segment of the labor market: those who were formerly incarcerated.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley's office is among the sponsors of the expo.

"Once people have served their time, we have a responsibility to help them rejoin our community, and there are currently many government agencies and nonprofit organizations doing this work," Graveley said. "We want employers to get to know the agencies and organizations who provide support for ex-incarcerated individuals, so employers can have the confidence to hire people who are ready for work and just waiting for a second chance."

Graveley added: "A job can be the difference between success and failure for a person who has been recently released from incarceration, and when everyone has the opportunity obtain full-

time, long-term employment, it makes our community safer, our families stronger, and our economy more resilient.”

Businesses that employ the formerly incarcerated, government and community agencies that support their transition back to the community, and faith leaders will be on hand to answer questions, provide introductions, and encourage employers to consider hiring work-ready, returning individuals.

Registration is recommended but not required. Online registration is available at <https://re-entryexpo2019.eventbrite.com>

The Expo is sponsored by the district attorney’s offices in Racine and Kenosha counties, Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce, the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce, the Racine/Kenosha Vocational Ministry, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, the City of Racine, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office for Urban Ministry.

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