

Gov. Walker: Discusses workforce development initiatives at Madison College's Cisco Networking Academy 20th anniversary celebration

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MADISON – Governor Scott Walker attended Cisco Networking Academy's 20th Anniversary celebration today at Madison College to highlight his new workforce agenda and the Academy's history of providing skills training and career building in information technology.

"Madison College's Cisco Networking Academy provides engaging education and hands-on job training that leads the way in developing Wisconsin's highly-skilled workforce," said Governor Walker. "I'm proud to join in celebrating the Academy's 20th anniversary, and I look forward to its continued success in enhancing our workforce and preparing workers to excel in the modern digital economy."

Governor Walker's Workforce Agenda, unveiled at last week's Future Wisconsin Summit in Madison, is a comprehensive plan focusing on enhancing Wisconsin's workforce, removing barriers to work, and meeting the state's current and future workforce needs. Included in the Workforce Agenda and the 2017-19 state budget are increased investments for Wisconsin's technical colleges and the UW System to provide well-trained, highly-skilled graduates in high-demand industries.

Cisco Networking Academy is an information technology (IT) skills and career-building program available to learning institutions and individuals worldwide. Cisco's largest and longest-running corporate social responsibility program, the Academy provides a broad IT curriculum for students of all backgrounds, teaching the hands-

on technical and business skills they need to succeed.

The core focus of the curriculum stays true to Cisco's expertise in networking and security, while adding coursework in emerging fields such as Internet of Things and data analytics in alignment with the future of education and business trends. Curriculum and training for the network's more than 22,000 instructors are provided free of charge to academy partners, which include high schools, colleges, universities, and other nonprofit community organizations.