



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oldenburg Proposes New Legislation to Boost Youth Apprenticeships

MADISON – Today Representative Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua) proposed legislation to modernize and provide additional financial support for Wisconsin’s expanding Youth Apprenticeship program. The new initiative was released as a part of Career and Technical Education Month.

“Now more than ever, our booming economy demands that employees enter the workforce with specialized skills and training. That’s why expanding access to youth apprenticeships and this type of in-demand training to our high school students is critically-important,” said Representative Oldenburg.

LRB 1990 would modernize Wisconsin’s youth apprenticeship program to help meet future workforce challenges. Specifically, the bill increases base funding for the program to \$4.5 million a year. The upgrade in funding helps to reflect the tripling of student participation since 2010. Additional funds are then provided to help increase recruitment of students and businesses participating in the program.

“This program is invaluable to businesses in my area, as they get an opportunity to mentor young students and give them real world learning at a workplace and hopefully become a future worker at that business,” said Oldenburg.

Last year over 4,300 students and 3,000 employers participated in Wisconsin youth apprenticeship programs. LRB 1990 will build upon the program’s successes and expand access to critical job-training opportunities to high school students around the state.

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The 96th Assembly District includes all of Crawford county, most of Vernon county, and a portion of Monroe county. The largest cities within the district are Prairie du Chien and Viroqua.