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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conagra Employees Receive Support, Workforce Services as part of Beaver Dam Plant Closure

BEAVER DAM, Wis. - Conagra Brands, a well-known food manufacturer owning brands like Chef Boyardee, Slim Jim and Hunts, has announced the closure of its Beaver Dam Birds Eye frozen foods facility on April 9, 2024 with layoffs beginning over the summer and continuing into next January. Made in accordance with the federal WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) Act, this decision will impact over 250 workers within the South Central Wisconsin region.

Having recently assisted with other company dislocations, including Energizer, Sheridan, and Chevron, the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW) proactively initiated contact with Conagra's company officials. Its Rapid Response team is currently actively engaged in providing essential services to support affected employees during this transition.

WDBSCW's Business Services Manager Jeff Westra shares, "Conagra's leadership has been very supportive and an outstanding partner with the Rapid Response Team. They have coordinated with the team to schedule informational sessions for affected staff interested in learning more about the dislocated worker program and resources available. Employee participation at the sessions has been very high, so the team looks forward to assisting them as they transition into the next phase of their careers."

The WDBSCW's assistance and services include:

- Information sessions on Unemployment Insurance in partnership with the Dept. of Workforce Development
- Guidance on health insurance options in partnership with Covering Wisconsin
- Re-employment support, including but not limited to, job search navigation, referrals, and training opportunities

These sessions at the Beaver Dam facility will continue into May to ensure that the dislocated workers have access to necessary resources. Furthermore, the WDBSCW is assisting with hosting job fairs and hiring events in order to connect local employers with impacted workers for new job opportunities.

Dislocated workers are encouraged to visit their American Job Center in Jefferson, Wisconsin for one-on-one services or contact the center at (920) 674-7500.

Employers looking to expand their talent pipelines can reach out to the WDBSCW at (608) 249-9001.

About the WDBSCW

The Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collaborates with business and workforce in the Wisconsin counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette and Sauk with a mission to build public and private partnerships that support innovation and excellence in workforce development.