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Governor Announces Mike Armiak as New Forward Wisconsin President

*A Former Board Member, Armiak Has Worked
Closely with Forward Wisconsin for Over 15 Years*

At Forward Wisconsin's 19th Annual Meeting in Madison, Governor Jim Doyle announced today the selection of Mike Armiak as Forward Wisconsin's new president.

Following interviews with several finalists by the Forward Wisconsin Executive Committee and interviews with the top three candidates by Governor Doyle, Forward Wisconsin's Chairman, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the recommendation of Armiak to become Forward's new leader.

"I am delighted by Mike's selection as the new president of Forward Wisconsin. He is a proven marketing executive and has worked extensively in the area of economic development in several states," Governor Doyle said. "His past experience in working with Forward Wisconsin will allow him to hit the ground running and effectively partner with my Administration on our 'Grow Wisconsin' economic development plan."

Armiak replaces Wayne Harris, who began his tenure with the organization in June 2001 and is leaving to pursue other business opportunities. Armiak is currently operating an energy consulting business where he creates marketing and regulatory strategies for regional and national businesses and organizations. Prior to his consulting work, Mike was an executive with ANR Pipeline Company for 30 years and worked extensively in Wisconsin. His duties included regulatory affairs, government relations, business-to-business marketing, sales and economic development. ANR Pipeline is an interstate natural gas pipeline offering transportation and storage services in the Midwestern United States.

A member of the Forward Wisconsin Board of Directors from 1987 to 2001, Armiak also served as chair of the Forward Wisconsin Marketing Committee for several years and spent time on the Forward Wisconsin Executive Committee. Armiak received his MBA from Eastern Michigan University and his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wayne State University. He will begin as Forward Wisconsin President on October 1.

Created in 1984, Forward Wisconsin, Inc. (www.forwardWI.com) is the state's business attraction organization and is a unique public-private marketing group chaired by Governor Doyle. Its job is marketing outside Wisconsin to attract new businesses, jobs and increased economic activity to the state.