



JOB FORCE BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVE

100,000 Michigan Workers Targeted in Joint Initiative Between Governor Granholm, Michigan Works! and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

100,000 Michigan workers who are either unemployed or working in low-wage jobs are the focus of a new proposed initiative between Michigan Works!, Governor Granholm and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

As more and more manual labor is mechanized and computerized, strong evidence has shown that Michigan's economy is transforming from one that has been primarily dependant on manufacturing into one that is knowledge-based.

It has become quite evident that Michigan workers need to be equipped with the right sets of skills and educational attainments to seize new opportunities in the emerging global economy if Michigan is going to regain its reputation as an economic powerhouse. At the speed the global marketplace is traveling, we do not have a minute to spare helping our businesses gear up their workforce if they are going to compete.

In her State of the State Address last year, Governor Granholm announced a plan to help Michigan businesses get the workers they desperately need with the proper skills needed to compete in the global marketplace and for jobseekers to get the right skills and credentials for jobs in the emerging economy.

The plan, which Governor Granholm appropriately dubbed "No Worker Left Behind", focuses on raising the percentage of displaced and underemployed workers who attain credentials, certificates and degrees in the areas Michigan businesses need them the most - advanced manufacturing, health care, biotech, renewable energy, and other growing sectors.

The No Worker Left Behind initiative is an excellent opportunity to prepare the state's workforce for success in this changing economy. By taking advantage of existing available educational opportunities and new and existing accelerated learning programs, Michigan will increase the number of jobseekers who will gain employment here in our own state related to the training they undertake, as well as increasing the percentage of workers and jobseekers who achieve wage increases due in part or whole to their participation in the initiative.

Under No Worker Left Behind the Job Force Board will work with its local education and economic development partners to enhance curriculum that is targeted towards demand occupations and the needs of business and industry. Under the initiative, jobseekers may qualify for up to two years worth of free tuition at a Michigan community college, university or other approved training program. The initiative has strong educational, economic and workforce development support state-wide.

Michigan Works! Agencies will work with training providers to leverage federal and state financial aid grant resources, federal employment and training programs, as well as other resources, such as educational benefits included as part of a buy-out from a previous employer. Financial aid officers at educational institutions will work with their local Michigan Works! to determine a financial aid package for each eligible student.

For More Information Contact Your Local Michigan Works! Service Center