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Thank you for your continued support of Economic and Workforce Development. Please take a moment to read our weekly newsletter to keep current on the exciting happenings in the Central Upper Peninsula!



"Upper Hand" Wins Design Awards

Congratulations to MEDC as the State's "Upper Hand" business marketing efforts have received global recognition in the Ashlund, KY.-based Communicator Awards Competition. Three MEDC publications were chosen from a field of 8,500 worldwide for seven awards.



**Governor's Council for Labor & Economic
Growth Recommends Adoption of National**

Career Readiness Certificate System

At its quarterly meeting, the Council for Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan's State Workforce Investment Board, recommended that the State of Michigan adopt a National Career Readiness Certificate (MI NCRC), based on ACT WorkKeys, to be implemented statewide.

The adoption of the Michigan Career Readiness Certificate will result in the ability to quantify the skills of Michigan's workforce critical to business attraction, expansion and retention. Employers will have a validated certification of applicant and existing employee skill levels, and Michigan's workforce and education departments will be strategically aligned to better meet the needs of business and industry.

For more information on how your business can benefit from the Michigan National Career Readiness Certificate, call 906.789.0558 ext.219.

Reminder

Michigan's Minimum Wage Set to Increase Today

Michigan's minimum wage will increase by 25 cents today, to \$7.40 an hour for most workers. The increase is the last of three increases approved in 2006 by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The minimum wage increased to \$6.95 on October 1, 2006, from \$5.15, and then to \$7.15 on July 1, 2007.

Along with the minimum wage change, the sub-minimum wage for young workers will also increase, rising to \$6.29 an hour from its current rate of \$6.08. The rate will then move to \$6.55 an hour on July 24, when the federal minimum wage increases and these younger workers become covered by the higher federal rate. The sub-minimum wage is for those under the age of 18 years of age and equals 85 percent of the adult minimum wage. The minimum wage for tipped employees will not increase on July 1. Employers, however, must ensure that these employees earn \$7.40 an hour through a combination of tips and the minimum wage rate of \$2.65 for tipped workers, such as food servers.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/wagehour.

Remember, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board believes that a sound economic base is essential to maintain the quality of life in the six county region it serves. The Board fosters economic development and encourages and supports employers to promote full employment for our residents.

Sincerely,

Orrin Bailey
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Works! The Job Force Board

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