

UPHEC Celebrates Expansion



(L-R: Sarah Johnson (Michigan Works!), Melissa Allen (student), Carolyn Weissbach (Program Director AGES), Will Carne (Chair, The Job Force Board). Ms. Allen has been working with Michigan Works! Human Resource Specialist, Sarah Johnson, to strengthen her employability skills and prepare for her upcoming AGES internship placement at Eastwood Nursing Home in Marquette.

The Upper Peninsula Health Education Corporation (UPHEC) celebrated the expansion of their Area Geriatric Education Scholars (AGES) 2007 summer internship program with a recognition banquet at

NMU for participating students and sponsors.

Piloted in 2006 with seven interns placed at three sites in Marquette and Alger Counties, AGES will host 38 student-

interns UP-wide from June to August 2007. Project partners include MSU-Extension, Michigan Works!, UP community and hospital foundations, the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development, corporate supporters and association support, and long term and direct health care sites from across the UP.

AGES aims to introduce UP youth in their junior or senior year of high school to careers in geriatric health, to address regional health care workforce needs and to increase intergenerational interaction between youth and elderly residents in the UP.

The program includes a three-day pre-internship orientation and a seven-week internship at a partnering long-term care health facility site in the accepted intern's home community throughout the UP. Guest speakers and training sessions covered topics ranging from senior activities and safety to an employability skill building session presented by Sarah Johnson of Michigan Works!.

For more information about AGES, please access AGES on the web at <http://www.mgh.org/uphec/ages.html> or contact Program Director Carolyn Weissbach at (906) 225-6920.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2: Economic Gardening: UP Partnerships at Work; Perkins Restaurant & Bakery Now Open!

Page 3: Financial information Management Training; MI-SBTDC & Michigan Works! Join Forces

Page 4: Adam Brigman Completes ICDL; Save the Date: 2007 Great Lakes Economic & Workforce Development Summit; Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union Finds Success

Page 5: NMU Job Fair; UP Business Barometer; Community Events

Page 6: UP Healthcare Roundtable Strategic Meeting; Youth Gains Employable Skills; BAH Calendar

Page 7: Chocoly Area Business Foundation Enhances Curb Appeal of Area Businesses

In The Spotlight

Economic Gardening by Growing our Own; UP Regional Partnerships at Work

DC Region 12 were lead presenters and trainers. The training covered the areas of checklists for starting a small business, licenses and permits, business taxes, financing a business, insurance, procurement, human resources, opening bank accounts, business plans, importing and exporting

components and scheduling appointments for the MI-SBTDC Business Development Con-



Representatives from Lake Superior Community Partnership, Keweenaw Bay Indian Council, Schoolcraft EDC, Munising Area Partnership for Economic Development and Michigan Works! attend MI-SBTDC Intake Consultant Training.

sultants to meet with individuals interested in starting or growing their own business.

“This is a one-stop, easy access for interested entrepreneurs and small business seeking to start or expand current business. It presents a tremendous opportunity for our region. The organizations that have volunteered to participate should be commended for their dedication to growing the economic vitality of the Upper Peninsula,” stated Paul Arsenault, Job Force Board Member.

SBTDC intake consultants can be accessed by the following organizations:

Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette County; Keweenaw Bay Indian Council, Baraga; Schoolcraft EDC, Manistique; Munising Area Partnership for Economic Development, Munising; Michigan Works! Service Centers in Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee and Schoolcraft counties.

For more information on services available through MI-SBTDC contact Joel Schultz, Regional Director at 906.789.0558.



Eighteen economic and workforce development professionals from across the Upper Peninsula convened for a day and a half of intensive training

to become the managers of first impressions as Intake Consultants for the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC). The training was co-sponsored by the Job Force Board and the MI-SBTDC.

Sienna Mavima, MI-SBTDC Information Manager and Assistant to the Director, Irene Dinauer, Administrator/Intake Consultant, MI-SBTDC Region 5 and Melinda Beattie, Intake Counselor / Administrative Assistant MI-SBT-

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery Hires Over 120 New Employees



Perkins Restaurant was on the horizon when the manager called and asked, “What can Michigan Works! do to assist us with our hiring?” A Human Resource Specialist of Michigan Works! met with Barbie Thomas, Manager of Perkins, and was able to offer an array of services for the restaurant’s human resource needs.

First, an electronic application was set up for those candidates interested in applying, and job orders were posted on the Michigan Talent Bank. Over 300 candidates applied for the positions of Hosts, Servers, Cooks, Prep/Bakers and Dishwashers! After screening the



Perkins Restaurant & Bakery now open for business in Marquette County.

applications, interviews were set up by the Human Resource Specialists in the Marquette County Michigan Works! Service Center. This, in particular, was very helpful to the Perkins

team as there was much re-modeling going on inside the restaurant itself and interviewing candidates would have been extremely difficult!



(Photo Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt)
Will Carne
President Michigan Works! The Job Force Board



Eastern UP entrepreneurs and small business owners recently gathered to hone their financial

MI-SBTDC Region 1 and Michigan Works! Join Forces to Expand Coverage

In a recent partnership move to expand and enhance services across the Upper Peninsula, the MI-SBTDC announces the addition of Lance Wolfe, Michigan Works! Business Services Consultant to the SBTDC Region 1 Team.

Wolfe, who has over 8 years of business and workforce development background, has recently completed the June 4-8, 2007 Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Academy of Professional Small Business Consultants. The Academy is a cutting edge certification for individuals including bankers, accountants, economic developers and any other groups that deal with small business owners on a regular basis. The first in two intensive academy sessions provided skill training in demonstrated business

plan analysis, access to conventional financing, financial statements and ratio analysis, business case studies, reading and interpreting credit reports, cash flow analysis, and overall fiscal fitness. Presentations were provided by experts from CPA firms, legal counsels, banks, MEDC, Small Business Administration, and MI-SBTDC.

“Lance will be providing initial consult services that will assist MI-SBTDC to meet with more potential entrepreneurs and small business owners across the Upper Peninsula,” stated Joel Schultz, Regional Director of MI-SBTDC Region 1. “We are looking forward to continued growth of our services with the addition of Lance to our team.” For more information on MI-SBTDC call 1-800-562-4808.

Financial Information Management Training Assists Eastern UP Small Business Owners

management skills in order to more efficiently run their business through a Financial Management Workshop offered at no cost through the Sault New Ventures Alliance. Held at the Cisler Center on the Campus of Lake Superior State University, the event showcased the MI- Small Business Technology Development Center of Region 1 (MI-SBTDC).



Participants were provided an overview of the importance of proper financial management for a company and methods on accomplishing this. Dan Houtari, BIS, Appleton, Wisconsin presented to the trainees an opportunity to improve their bottom line in managing business through an internet based accounting system that provides up-to-date financial information on a daily basis. This fully functioning accounting system significantly reduces time and cost in the back office, while the information available to the business owner improves dramatically.

“Our mission at MI-SBTDC is to provide value added information to our entrepreneurs and small businesses across the region,” stated Joel Schultz, Regional Director of MI-SBTDC Region 1. “And trainings of this type are certainly geared to helping business to maintain their economic viability. We certainly appreciate the

dedication of the Sault New Ventures Alliance in their support of these training events.”

The New Ventures Alliance Partners are comprised of the Sault Economic Development Corporation, the Sault Downtown Development Authority, the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce and Michigan Works!. “Our New Ventures Alliance is making strong progress in the support of entrepreneurs and small business and is always seeking ways to grow our own here in the Eastern Upper Peninsula,” added Jim Hendricks, Executive Director of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

The National City Bank and Old Mission Bank were also supporting partners in this event. For more information on the New Ventures Alliance Partners and how it can assist your small business, please call 906.635.9131 and MI-SBTDC at 1-800-562-4808.

As part of the **21st Century Planning Initiative**, our three Michigan Works! Workforce Development Boards are continuing their support of forging partnerships with community leaders to grow the economic viability of our region. It is without a doubt that the partnerships across the Upper Peninsula are adding tremendous value to our business and industry.



Lance Wolfe, Michigan Works! General Business Consultant, newest addition to the SBTDC Region 1 Team.

Youth Interested in Technology Explores Interest in Computers and Completes ICDL

Adam Brigman graduated from Marquette Senior High School this year with a better idea about what he wants to do with his future. When Adam began working with the Human Resource Specialist at the Marquette Michigan Works! Service Center, he expressed an interest in working with computers. Through his participation with Youth Works!, Adam has explored careers, completed a work experience and gained his International Computer Driver's License (ICDL), a computer proficiency certification.

While participating in Youth Works!, Adam attended workshops on employability soft skills/workplace expectations and earned a Ready For Work! certificate. Michigan Works! partnered with NMU's HelpDesk to provide a work experience for Adam during the summer of 2006. While at the HelpDesk, Adam gained practical experience by assisting NMU students and faculty troubleshooting Help files and resolving computer problems. Of the experience, Adam said, "I really liked the job. It was a friendly environment, a good team and everyone helped each other."

Adam earned full certification in ICDL. He is now certified proficient in 7 areas of computer usage. When asked why he gave up vacation time to study and complete tests, Adam responded, "It will look good on my resume. It's better than just saying I am good at computers. I think it will help me get a job because it proves to employers I actually have the skills."

Now that he has graduated, Adam plans on attending NMU to pursue a degree in Computer Science. He hopes to gain further work experience at NMU's HelpDesk or MicroRepair. His former employer, Chris Wagner, said, "I was impressed with Adam's maturity and real interest in the work at the HelpDesk. Giving Adam the opportunity to work here was beneficial to both the HelpDesk and Adam. I would definitely consider providing the same opportunities to others recommended by Michigan Works!"



2007 Upper Great Lakes Economic and Workforce Development Summit-- *Think Globally, Collaborate Regionally and Benefit Locally; Creating and sustaining wealth in your community*

SAVE THE DATE! September 27, 2007 – Marquette, MI



Think globally, collaborate regionally and benefit locally is the theme for the 2007 Upper Great Lakes Economic and Workforce Development Annual Summit being held in Marquette, Michigan on Thursday September 27, 2007. This event is part of the Upper Peninsula's 21st

Century Strategic Planning Initiative for advancing the economy of the Upper Peninsula.

This year's event focuses on creating and sustaining wealth within your community. With the economic and workforce challenges facing our Michigan communities, governments and businesses, this summit event is a must attend for all your community's business and education leaders, economic and workforce development practitioners and stakeholders.

Join us as national and international experts examine and discuss the influence of the global economy and its effect on the nation, the State of Michigan and here locally in Upper Michigan and what local communities and regions can and need to do to create wealth for their businesses and residents.

Mark your calendar and save the date! Agenda, Times and Facility to Follow. For more information contact 1-800-285-WORKS! (9675).

Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union Finds Success with Michigan Works!



Superior Iron Range Community CU (Main office in Negaunee).

Finding qualified workers through the Marquette Michigan Works! Service Center assessment services have been very productive for the Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union. Superior Iron Range is looking for workers who are skilled in areas of banking such as reconciliation processes, bank deposits and ability to update and maintain spreadsheets as well as having excellent customer service skills. All of these skills serve as the foundation of their motto,

"Not for Profit, Not for Charity, But for Service". "Michigan Works! has been very helpful by providing us with assessments on our applicants that help us to ensure we are getting the most productive workforce," stated Heidi Davison, Human Resource Manager.

Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union serves people, businesses, and organizations that reside, work (or regularly conduct business in) or go to school in Mar-

quette, Iron, Alger, Dickinson, and Baraga Counties.

Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union has been a long-time member of our community for many years, but you may not realize this from their current name. For years, financial cooperatives such as the Negaunee Community Federal Credit Union, the Government & Railroad Employees Federal Credit Union, the Marquette Municipal Federal Credit Union, and the Soo Line Credit Union have been providing the best possible service for the lowest possible cost to their members. Over the years, these institutions have combined their talents and efforts to become the "Superior" institution. With their mission statement of "To Provide the best quality service at the lowest possible cost to our members", Superior Iron Range Community Federal Credit Union looks forward to many years of continued success in the communities they serve.