



## HATS OFF TO THE DELTA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE! ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATION FULL OF SURPRISES



(Picture Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt.)  
EDA Director Linda Hirvonen congratulates the Delta Force graduates.

Force.  
The event also presents an opportunity to honor the successful businesses that keep the local economy humming. Orrin Bailey, CEO of Michigan Works! The Job Force Board and Will Carne, President of the Job Force Board presented VanAire Inc. with the 2005 "Top Hat" Business of the Year award. VanAire Inc. is a manufacturer of valve automation hardware and wastewater treatment and byproduct

Delta County residents look forward to the Delta Chamber Dinner every year, not only to enjoy a great meal and socialize, but to acknowledge members of the community who have made a great impact on the overall quality of life in the region. A group of emerging leaders was recognized

recovery equipment. The company has grown quickly, now employing 70 people and they are now branching out with a new company. Dick Vandevusse, President of VanAire is most excited about what is on the horizon working with the bio diesel industry. The company will produce an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly fuel from recovered fats, greases and soybeans.

There are many accomplished and altruistic women in Delta County, and each year the Chamber chooses just one to



(Picture Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt.)  
Peter Jennings gets heckled by Don Pryor, the World's Worst Waiter.

this year at the Delta Force Leadership Academy graduation ceremony. The Academy participants have dedicated the past year to learning various aspects of what makes Delta County tick and building relationships that will often last the duration of their lifetimes. Michigan Works! The Job Force Board is proud to congratulate their own Beau Boden, for being a graduate of the 2005 Delta



(Picture Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt.)  
Richard Vandevusse of VanAire accepts the Business of the Year Award from Michigan Works! The Job Force Board's President Will Carne and CEO Orrin Bailey.

honor with the Athena Award. This year's winner is Paddy Fitch. She is well-known throughout the community for her involvement in creating the YMCA of Delta County and establishing the Alliance Against Violence and Abuse. Fitch is the fifth person to receive the Athena Award which also grants academic scholarships to area students.

The Chamber and friends also welcomed its' new President, Steve Lillie

and honored area educators Don Arnson and Char DeGrave for the Excellence in Education Award. The Economic Development Award went to Gladstone Economic Development Corporation and the Excellence in Customer Service Award went to Coldwell Banker. Michigan Works! The Job Force Board thanks the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce for all its' efforts and looks forward to next year's events!

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In The  
Spotlight

## CHEMDESIGN OF MARINETTE IS A STELLAR EXAMPLE OF SAFETY, SUCCESS, AND INNOVATION

ChemDesign Corporation

ChemDesign Corporation 

ChemDesign Corporation is an independent, custom-chemicals-manufacturing-specialist and an innovator of research and development. With their state-of-the-art technology and their professional staff they can ensure quality custom chemical manufacturing that exceeds their clients' expectations. ChemDesign has been in business since 1983 and currently employs over 100 residents of the Marinette/Menominee area.

Because of ChemDesign's commitment to safety, their employees have gone a record 1,452 consecutive days without lost time from an employee injury. In over two decades of operation, they have not had one serious on-the-job injury, despite the potentially dangerous chemicals they use every day. To maintain this standard, they hold daily tailgate safety rallies, monthly safety meetings, and are constantly educating the community about chemicals and their environmental impact. They also team with local fire departments for joint emergency response drills. ChemDesign has received numerous Responsible Care Company Awards.

ChemDesign is also committed to its' future workforce. As a facilitator of



- wage assessment in the area
- ◆ Outline and training for use of the Michigan Talent Bank

ChemDesign's Human Resource Director, Brenda Kind had this to say: "By using Michigan Works! I was able to gain a higher level of standards through their testing services for the best possible job candidates. The services they provided gave us what we needed to fill our open positions. Michigan Works! also provided us with labor market information that allowed us to make some competitive pay scale changes. I was very impressed with the time frame in which all the information I requested was supplied to me. The staff of Michigan Works! are always willing to assist employers with their needs and go that extra mile."

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board thanks ChemDesign for its' contribution to Menominee's economy and is proud to supply them with a skilled and talented workforce.

career programs in area schools, they host student tours of the facility and present information to schools about career opportunities in science and industry. ChemDesign is a founding member of Massachusetts Chemical Technology Alliance (MCTA). In August of this year the Menominee Michigan Works! and ChemDesign joined

forces to empower ChemDesign with an optimal workforce. Since then, Michigan Works! has partnered with their Human Resources team to deliver the following services:

- assessments
- ◆ Reading and office proficiency testing
- ◆ Collection and delivery of resumes and applications
- ◆ Labor market information for

- ◆ Pre-hire



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(Picture Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt.)

**Will Carne, President  
Michigan Works! The Job Force Board**

Basic Marine Inc. knows boats! Since 1979, they've been an integral part of a growingly diverse and economically strengthened Escanaba waterfront. They manufacture custom-built steel vessels, tow ships from port-to-port and provide spe-

cialty marine repairs. Situated on 30 acres of waterfront property in the naturally protected harbor on Little Bay de Noc, they reach customers from across the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico via the Illinois and Mississippi waterways; to the East Coast via the St. Lawrence River or the Erie Canal; "around the horn" to the West Coast, and anywhere in between. Basic Marine also knows good employees! They have thirty-five workers with a variety of expertise and Michigan Works! is a proud partner in this employment relationship. One employee, Paul Glenik, exemplifies how military veterans bring leadership skills and a strong ethic to the work-

## HIRING VETERANS IS GOOD BUSINESS FOR BASIC MARINE!

place. Paul went to Michigan Works! for assistance with his job search, resume development, interviewing techniques and career preparation services. Once Paul's skills and interests were evaluated, the Workforce Development Professionals at Michigan Works! arranged for him to take a welding test. Paul passed

the test with flying colors and began his new career. Since then, he's taken on more responsibility and has continued to grow in his position. Paul is still going strong with Basic Marine and is an example of how military morale and a little bit of skills training is a successful combination.

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## MARQUETTE MICHIGAN WORKS! WELCOMES TRISTA DUSSEAULT

Trista Dusseault is the newest member of the Workforce Development Team in the Marquette Service Center. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree from North-

ern Michigan University, Trista worked for the Department of Human Services as a Child Support Specialist in Marquette and Alger counties. She then served as Claims Examiner for the Unemployment Agency in Marquette. Trista discovered her new position through a job search with Michigan Works in Marquette where she had access to

computers, the Michigan Talent Bank, resume assistance and many other services. Trista said, "The staff was very professional, courteous and helpful. While performing a job search, I saw a job order on the Michigan Talent Bank for a Workforce Development Professional for the Marquette Michigan Works! office. I applied and was hired on October 7, 2005. I love to help people and Michigan Works! has given me the opportunity to help businesses and job seekers in the way that I was helped." Michigan Works! is happy to have Trista on the team!



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## CONGRESSMAN STUPAK BRINGS FEDERAL CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO UPPER PENINSULA BUSINESSES



(Picture Courtesy of Northern Waters Photography/Sean Depuydt.)  
Congressman Bart Stupak tells the crowd how to leverage federal funds.

Congressman Bart Stupak, Menominee, hosted the 2nd Annual U.P. Federal Economic Conference, co-sponsored by the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance and Operation Action U.P. This event allowed area businesses to learn how to access federal procurements to increase their market area and programs to build their businesses.

A number of presenters from various federal agencies were on hand to discuss their programs, including rep-



Amy Maes, Director of Superior Alliance for Independent Living, instructs HR professionals on ADA law.

Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities into our Upper Peninsula communities on a full and equal basis through empowerment, education, participation and choice. They now move forward with that mission with Amy Maes as their new director.

Maes is not new to disability advocacy. She is an attorney and has been working in the disability law area for the past thirteen years. She was previously

representatives from the Small Business Administration and Grants.gov. Katie Root, from www.Grants.gov, presented on the central clearing house of federal grant opportunities, which was put on-line in October of 2003. Although aimed mostly a commu-

nities and non-

profits, grants.gov also has some opportunities for private enterprise. Grant opportunities can be searched using a variety of criteria, including eligible grantee. Grants.gov offers over \$400 billion in annual grants from all 26 Federal grant-making agencies. These grants cover over 900 different programs with thousands of funding opportunities.

Grants.gov is a free service to access and search for grant opportunities. In addition, grant documents may also be downloaded at no cost without regis-

tration. Users are required to register if they choose to submit a grant on Grants.gov; however, there is no cost for registration. Currently Grants.gov only provides electronic grant documents to Microsoft Windows compatible operating systems. Also at the Summit was Allen Cook, with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Mr. Cook discussed the various programs and partnerships sponsored by the SBA. The SBA has programs for businesses whether starting anew or expanding, including counseling services through local partners and SBA guaranteed loans. Locally, the SBA is in partnership with the Michigan Small Business Technology and Development Centers (MI-SBTDC) and 1st Step, Inc. which provide free and confidential small business counseling through a network of small business counselors. In addition, in partnership with Michigan Works! two area Biz Resource Centers are available at the Marquette and Escanaba Michigan Works! Service Centers. Across the Upper Peninsula there are also Biz Resource Centers in Hancock and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. More information about these

partnerships may be found at [www.cupp.ad.org/firststep.php](http://www.cupp.ad.org/firststep.php).

Mr. Cook also discussed the SBA 504 guaranteed loan program which can be used to guarantee loans for equipment, land, and operating capital. Borrowers apply for SBA guarantees directly through their banks, as the SBA does not lend money directly to borrowers. Locally, Wells Fargo Bank, National City, and Republic Bank are SBA preferred lenders. Other local banks may also participate in the program; Allen Cook recommends that borrowers inquire as to their banks participation in the SBA guaranteed loan program.

To learn more about the programs and services of the U.S. Small Business Administration you may visit them on the Internet at [www.sba.gov/mi](http://www.sba.gov/mi). For additional information about accessing Federal resources, reader may contact Congressman Bart Stupak through his web-site at <http://www.house.gov/stupak>. Regional small business assistance and links to local resources is also available through the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance at [www.UPEDA.com](http://www.UPEDA.com).

## SAIL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the Legal Director of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) and for eleven years she has dealt primarily with adult onset legal disability issues, including work with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), employment discrimination issues, as well as, physical and programmatic access issues, fair housing and representing client facing guardianship petitions. Before MPAS, Amy worked with senior citizens facing legal issues related to health care and estate planning.

Maes has practiced law throughout the State of Michigan, both in State and Federal court, appearing before the State's Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, on behalf of persons with disabilities. Amy has also trained extensively throughout the state on several legal disability-related issues. She has for the past two years been educating parents, consumers and service providers on al-

ternatives to guardianship and was involved in the policy discussions leading up to the passage of the legislation addressing advance directives for mental health decisions. She has also presented nationally on many areas of disability law and she has had two articles

published in the Michigan Bar Journal on disability law. A Northern Michigan University alumnus, Amy is happy to return to the Upper Peninsula. Michigan Works! The Job Force Board wishes Amy Maes and SAIL much success on all their endeavors.

## Corner of Events

**November 7**  
**Business After Hours (5:00-7:00)**  
UpFront & Co., Marquette  
Call Cheryl Shuty for more information (906) 486-4841

**December 7**  
**Business After Hours (5:30-7:30)**  
Log Cabin Grill & Bistro  
Call Delta County Chamber of Commerce for more information (906) 786-2192



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