



EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT HELD IN THE UPPER PENINSULA



Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent of Schools, speaks at the Legislative Summit.

The 9th Annual Upper Peninsula Education Legislative Summit was held on September 9th and 10th in



Tom Clay, Citizens Research, updates attendees on Michigan's Budget Crisis.

Marquette. About 500 participants representing education, government and private business attended the event which is hosted annually by State Senator Mike Prusi and State Representative Steve Adami.

"We are glad that our State Representatives and Senators take the time out of their busy schedules to make sure this event takes place. This event is a lot of work and we thank them. They are working around the clock to finalize budgets. The interactive session allows legislators to participate yet

still be present in Lansing to address the budget issues. The information shared within this summit is extremely important and the effects education has upon our region reaches every corner of the U.P. and touches every Upper Peninsula resident," stated Steve Balbierz, Director of External Affairs for SBC and long-time Job Force

Board member.

The summit kicked off on Wednesday, September 7th, at the Holiday Inn with a Quiz Bowl match between U.P. High School students and lawmakers' aids. The summit completed on Friday the 8th with an education summit, keynote ad-

dress, interactive sessions with 18 legislators, and a panel discussion with high school students on the

prepare students for 21st century jobs, adding that education serves as the building blocks to economic de-

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campus of Northern Michigan University.

Northern Michigan University's President, Dr. Les Wong, welcomed delegates to the Thursday conference and summit. Superintendent of public education, Mike Flanagan gave the key note address focusing on the importance of education while providing some recommendations for high school reform. Mr. Flanagan commented that math and science are essential skills needed to

velopment. Tom Clay, Director of State Affairs and Citizens Research Council of Michigan talked to summit attendees about Michigan's financial crisis and the outlook for school funding.

Students representing Ishpeming, Ontonagon, Sault Ste. Marie and Stephenson High Schools gave an uplifting and educational summary and prospective of education within their School Districts.



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In The Spotlight

Pinecrest Medical Care Facility

BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY



Governor Jennifer Granholm helped Pinecrest plant the seeds of change at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Pinecrest Medical Care Facility in Powers broke ground on the third Green House in the nation on Thursday, August 18th. Michigan now leads the nation in the construction of Green Houses, a radically new approach to long-term care. The Green House is part of a broadening movement to humanize care for elderly people with smaller, more domestic settings and a closer sense of community among residents and staff members. And they are an effort to address the fears of being institutionalized, among them anxieties about the loss of independence and the potential for abuse.

The Green House at Pinecrest will be a small 10 person

home where people requiring skilled nursing services can live and receive the care they need. The Green House, like Pinecrest, will be an Eden Alternative home, adding plants, companion animals and children and employ a new philosophy of caring. "The road to this Groundbreaking Day has been four years in the making," says Gerald Better, Administrator. "I am honored that the Governor and Dr. Thomas joined Pinecrest in providing the best possible quality of

life and quality of care for our state's elders."

According to Dr. Thomas, a nationally known expert in the field of gerontology, Green Houses will be warm, smart and green. A small number of staff will share the responsibilities of assisting elders with daily living skills, cooking, laundry, and housekeeping. These universal staff members are called Shabazim. Licensed

nursing and therapy staff will visit the Green House to administer medications or physical, occupational or speech therapy as needed.

The Green House at Pinecrest will use smart, unobtrusive technology such as wireless laptops and paging systems, and ceiling-attached lifts in each of the 10 private rooms that allow elders to move easily from their bed to their wheelchair or bathroom. The House will also be green, filled with children's

laughter, animals and growing green plants. Along with staffing, architecture will be different in the Green House. All 10 private rooms will

center

around an open, handicapped accessible kitchen and hearth area. There will be no daily schedules and it will not feel like the medical institution most people are familiar with when they think about long term care. One of the few things that the Green House and a traditional nursing home will have in common is cost. Medicare, Medicaid private insurance or private pay are all accepted forms of payment at the Green House and at Pinecrest. A grant from Robert Wood



Gerry Better, CEO of Pinecrest Medical Care Facility, welcomes guests to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new addition.

Johnson Foundation will cover the cost of the 100 hours of additional training for staff members selected to become Shabazim and work in the Green House.

We offer short-term rehabilitative services and long-term skilled medical

care, physical, occupational and speech therapy, and our staff physician is on-site. Our Special Care Unit is specifically designed to meet the ongoing needs of those with Alzheimer's disease or general dementia.

For over 84 years, Pinecrest Medical Care Facility has been providing quality care to our Upper Peninsula communities and families. Owned by Delta, Dickinson and Menominee

Counties, Pinecrest is centrally located in Powers, Mich. As a recognized area leader in long-term care, Pinecrest offers skilled medical care, Alzheimer's care, physical, occupational and speech therapy, and can welcome up to 174 residents.



Congressman Bart Stupak praises Pinecrest for their progressive approach to long-term care.



Pinecrest Board Representatives, Contractors and Patient Representative cut the ribbon, celebrating the official grand opening of the Pinecrest Addition.

Did you know that the original Pinecrest building was erected in 1919 and operated as a tuberculosis sanitarium for 42 years? The facility was financed jointly by Delta and Menominee counties. In 1927, Dickinson County joined as part owner of the sanitarium. In 1961, Pinecrest became a Medical Care Facility, focusing on providing skilled nursing care for the aged and the

chronically ill. Pinecrest has grown to a 174 bed facility. Pinecrest not only celebrated the recent ground breaking, but also a ribbon cutting for its new addition and renovation project. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Gerry Better, stated that the "facility's growth and success was due to the dedication of the staff and support of the community."

HIRING VETERANS FIRST = SMART BUSINESS



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

Will Carne, President
Michigan Works! The Job Force Board

have been working to heighten employer awareness of the diverse capabilities, broad range of skills, excellent training, and proven character of our veterans through the HireVets-First Campaign.

The campaign, through its Website, www.hirevetsfirst.org, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Toll-Free Help Line 1-877-US2-JOBS (TTY: 1-877-889-5627), will refer employers to local Michigan Works! Service Centers for assistance in connecting to veterans.

The Job Force Board is asking for your continued support in getting our veterans back to work. The U.S. Department of Labor, the President's National Hire Veterans Committee and our Michigan Works! Service Centers

MICHIGAN WORKS! FOR PLC-USA

When PLC-USA in Gwinn needs people, they call on the Michigan Works! Service Center in Marquette County. In the past three months the company has worked with Michigan Works! to find highly qualified people to fill the positions of office assistant, CDL Truck Driver, Truck/Forklift Driver and General Laborers. The company builds complex sawmills and can produce intricate products as well as small runs. They have a lumber processing system, kilns, pallet production, wood grader and have access to rail loading.

At times, finding candidates with the knowledge skills and abilities required for these jobs can be a challenge, but with access to a pool of workers with a wide variety of skills, the Michigan Works! team in Marquette comes through. In order to be a successful candidate in such a complex system an employee needs to be well prepared and that is what Michigan Works! strives to provide - well prepared candidates. One candidate in particular is Ron

When you recruit recently separated military veterans, you are reaching out to a unique pool of potential employees who have all ready demonstrated integrity, commitment to excellence and the desire to do the best job possible.

Quintanilla who was assisted by Jackie Earle, Workforce Development Professional, to help him identify his skills and qualifications that would match what was needed to work for PLC-USA. She also helped him create a resume that highlighted his skills and qualifications so he could market himself to regional employers.

In order to assist the company in selecting candidates, Michigan Works! assessed candidates' skills based on the employer's needs and Ron passed the assessments at the required levels. He is now working with PLC-USA and meeting their needs due largely to the efforts of the Michigan Works! team and their strong relationships with regional businesses and linking qualified candidates to employer needs. Ron says "Jackie really helped me out! She helped me understand what skills I had that I could use to get into a job and maybe even get promoted. I wouldn't be making as much money now if I didn't go to Michigan Works!"

Veterans give you a clear edge on the competition. As a result of the intensive Leadership training they receive. The military trains people to accept & discharge responsibility for activities, resources and one's own behavior. This training includes: setting an example, giving carefully considered directions, inspiring leadership capabilities in others and continually motivating others in the group.

One definite characteristic of military service is that service members must perform. They must do their job, do it right the first time and in a timely fashion. They are continuously setting priorities, meeting schedules and accomplishing their missions. Pressure and stress are built into this, but service members are taught how to deal with all these factors in a positive and effective manner

Veterans also bring added value to your business through their specialized

advanced training. All service personnel receive advanced training in their fields. Their career fields designate a specialized focus & skill building for their individual jobs. Advanced training and cross-referenced training can be on computerized, financial, medical, engineering, administrative, personnel, technical mechanical or security fields.

Is your business in need of qualified employees? Need assistance to meet your hiring needs?

Our Michigan Works! Service Centers offer comprehensive services to our business and industry. Michigan Works! Service Centers have Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and Business Representatives who are ready to assist you in your hiring needs.

Growing Business. Harvesting Success.

2005 MICHIGAN'S COOL U.P. SUMMIT

Monday, Oct. 17, 2005

John Bottum University Center, NMU Marquette
Join us for this 1-day information filled event!

Featured Topics:

Creative Entrepreneurial Communities
Case Studies— Harvesting Success in Rural America
Infrastructure— What Needs to Ensure Growth

2005 Cool U.P. Awards

Nominations Available on the Web
Economic Developer • Cool Collaborator
Development Projects • Tourism • Product
Business/Company • Up and Comer

Log on to www.UPEDA.com
for registration information and more details.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE CONTACT:
Karen Widmar, UPEDA Marketing Co-Chair
906.439.5919, kwidmar@tds.net



UPPER PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

JAMES EPOLITO TAKES LEAD OF MEDC

James Epolito, most recently President and Chief Executive of the Lansing-based Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America, assumed the role of President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation on September 1. The MEDC Board of Directors chose Epolito in June for his successful business experience, vision and relationships within the state's business community. The MEDC's new leader intends to build strong collaborations between state government, local government,

community economic development and business leaders, grow Michigan's economy, attract new corporate investments to the state and create good-paying jobs for Michigan workers.

"I feel absolutely thrilled about the move," said Epolito, who will have a two-year contract worth \$200,000 annually. "I think it surprised some people... I thought it was a great opportunity outside the insurance industry."

Epolito's position as leader



of the 265-employee MEDC - which has a budget of \$132 million - begins Sept. 1, pending approval from the MEDC's executive committee. The agency is charged

with recruiting, retaining and growing businesses and jobs in Michigan through such things as site location assistance, job training grants and tax breaks.



THE NORTHWOODS ECONOMIC SUMMIT: "N.E.W. OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE THE FOREST THROUGH THE TREES"

Did you know?

Although North-eastern Wisconsin is a wonderful place to live,

work and play, the Northwoods" consisting of Florence, Forest, Menominee, Shawano, Marinette and Oconto Counties are facing several critical economic and workforce development issues:

- ◆ A labor force participation rate of 64% compared to 73% for the state as a whole.
- ◆ A combined average unemployment rate of 8.4% compared to 4.5% for the state as a whole.
- ◆ An average per capita income of \$23,134. This is well below the state average of \$30,685.
- ◆ A poverty rate of 13% compared to Wisconsin's average of 9%.

Please join area us for a proactive discussion about the future of the Northwoods.

CONFERENCE DETAILS: The Northwoods Economic Summit will be a day long facilitated discussion with Federal, State and Local education, government and business leaders that will mark the first step in developing an aggressive action plan to guide future growth in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Date: October 4, 2005

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meals: Continental breakfast and lunch are included.

Dress: Business casual

Registration Fee: \$25

Accommodations: \$62 single plus tax. Accessible rooms are available.

Activities: Golf, pontoon boat

rides, waterfall hikes, fishing and others can be arranged by resort staff either before or after the event.

Directions: 141 to County Z in Beecher, Wisconsin (90 miles north of Green Bay.) County Z east for 8 miles and follow the signs!

AGENDA:

8:30 Registration and Welcome

Representative Mursau and Senator Breske.

9:15 The Government Perspective

Leaders from the state departments of Public Instruction, Tourism, Work-

force Development, Commerce and House Speaker John Gard will offer their ideas for partnerships to promote economic and workforce development in Northeastern Wisconsin.

10:30 The Northeastern Wisconsin

Economic Opportunity Study Study author David Ward outlines trends specific to the Northwoods and how they relate to the potential for a strategic economic development plan.

11:45 Lunch

U.S. Congressman Mark Green will discuss federal opportunities for strengthening the future economy of Northeastern Wisconsin.

12:30 The Business Perspective

Northwoods business leaders will present their perspective on how to confront the barriers that impede economic and workforce development. Representatives will include tourism, forestry, education, manufacturing and commercial real estate.

2:30 Where do we go from here?

A facilitated discussion will be lead to develop a specific action plan.

3:30 Adjourn

For More Information: Contact Jim Golembeski at 920-431-4102 or JGolembeski@bayareawdb.org.

Corner of Events

October 6

Chamber Annual Dinner (5:30)

Chip In's Island Resort & Casino
Call the Delta County Chamber of Commerce for more information (906) 786-2192

October 7

Upper Peninsula Human Resource Forum
NMU Great Lakes Room (8:15-4:00)
Call Jim Kent of Portage Health Systems for more information (906) 483-1675

October 7

U.P. Non-Profit Conference
Ramada In, Marquette (8:00-3:30)
Call Karen Thompson for more information (906) 228-8919

October 18

Business After Hours (5:00-7:00 CT)

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board
Pine Grove in Iron Mountain
Call the Dickinson Area Partnership for more information (906) 774-2002

October 20

Comedy Zone (5:30-7:30)

Upfront & Company in Marquette
Call Cheryl Shutty at the Lake Superior Partnership for more information (906) 486-4841

October 26

Business After Hours (5:30-7:30)

Hilltop RV & Sports Center
Call the Delta County Chamber of Commerce for more information (906) 786-2192

October 27

OSF Heart of Gold Dinner/Fundraiser

Danforth Place
Call Jessica for more information (906) 786-3311

