

E&E FURNITURE SALES INC. ENJOYS PROFESSIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES



E&E Furniture Sales Inc., located in Escanaba and Kingsford, offers a full-line of quality furniture, specializing in solid wood Amish items

that can be custom ordered in a variety of finishes and fabrics. E&E Furniture Sales take great pride in their knowledge of furniture and interior design.

Because of their specific hiring needs, Roger and Marlene Robinson and Gary Randall, co-owners, contacted Michigan Works! to hire three new employees since December of 2005. When seeking a new employee, Gary Randall stated, "We are very satisfied with the quality of applicants Michigan Works! has sent over."

If you have questions concerning the human resource services that Michigan Works! can offer, please contact your local Michigan Works! Service Center at 1-800-285-9675.

GREDE FOUNDRIES, INC., MICHIGAN WORKS! WORKING TOGETHER!



GREDE FOUNDRIES, INC.

Grede Foundries has been in business since 1920 in Wisconsin and expanded to Kingsford in 1947. The company currently has ten facilities for various castings and applications in steel and iron. Grede Foundries takes pride in the attention to accurate and reliable castings and focuses on providing the highest value to their customers.

Grede has been using the human resource services at Michigan Works! since

2002 for on line job order postings, collecting applications and assessments. As employment needs increased, Grede Foundries called on Michigan Works! to see what could be done. Staff at Michigan Works! and Grede were able to coordinate a job fair at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Iron Mountain. The job fair was advertised locally as well as on the Michigan Talent Bank and attracted 75 potential employees in one afternoon. Grede Foundries had four representatives conduct interviews as job seekers completed their applications.

"Michigan Works! did a very nice job in setting up and coordinating our last job fair. Not only did they set up the advertising, they arranged the scheduling of the applicants as well. It really did not require much effort on our part, other than to be at Michigan Works! at the assigned time. The Michigan Works! staff was professional and organized. At the end of the day, we felt we had come away with a good pool of potential employees. We would recommend to any other businesses the use of this service," stated Mark Erickson, Human Resource Manager.

To learn more about Grede Foundries, contact them locally at (906)774-7250 or on the web at www.grede.com.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

October 5 . 2006

Chamber Annual Dinner

Location: Chip Inn Casino

Time: 5:30 p.m.

For More Information Call

Delta County Chamber at 906.786.2192

October 9 . 2006

Business Showcase

Location: Harbor View Chiropractic

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For More Information Call

Lake Superior Community Partnership at 906.226.6591

October 19 . 2006

2nd Annual U.P. Non Profit Conference

Location: NMU

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For More Information Call

Judy Watson-Olsen at 906.228.8919

October 20 . 2006

U.P. Fall Forum

Human Resources

Location: NMU; Don H Bottom Center

Time: 8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For More Information Call

Guy St.Germain at 906.482.7382

October 24 . 2006

Business After Hours

Pine Grove

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m. (CST)

For More Information Call

Dickinson Area Partnership at 906.774.2002

October 25 . 2006

Business After Hours

Hilltop RV Superstore

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For More Information Call

Delta County Chamber at 906.786.2192

October 31 . 2006

Non-Profit Management Part Seven

Location: MTEC

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

For More Information Call

MTEC at 906.789.6902 x1212

November 6 . 2006

Business Showcase

Location: Butler Theatre Antique Mall

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For More Information Call

Lake Superior Community Partnership at 906.226.6591

November 7 . 2006

Business After Hours Michigan Works!

Location: Riverside Country Club

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m. CT

For More Information Call

Marinette/Menominee Chamber at 715.735.6681

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM VISITS ISSUES & ANSWERS



Governor Jennifer Granholm takes a moment before entering Issues & Answers to thank Holly Peoples & Pierette Rusch of Michigan Works! for their strong support of MiOPPS.

During her recent visit to the Upper Peninsula the Governor made a stop at the Issues and Answers Iron Mountain location. She had the opportunity to tour the

facility and meet the employees. Michigan Works! Representatives were on hand as well.

Michigan Works! continues to provide Issues and Answers with qualified candidates, application collection, pre-employment assessments and worker recruitment. Michigan Works! in the Central Upper Peninsula is also working very hard to support the Governor's Michigan Opportunity Partnership and is currently number one in the state for placing workers in jobs with a 97% success rate.

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board also convenes several Regional Skills Alliances covering the Upper Peninsula. RSAs are groups of business leaders in specific industries working together to address common, strategic workforce issues.

HALF CRAZY, HALF SANE

When a local logger was asked on a recent survey what skills were needed in an ideal timber products employee, he responded, "I'm looking for someone who is half crazy and half sane." It may seem like an odd answer, but if you make your living in the woods of the Upper Peninsula, perhaps the response underlines a looming reality of the condition of the timber industry.

The timber products business, which has never been an undemanding lively hood, has many weighty challenges before it. With the increase in environmental concerns, strict regulations curbing the usage of public lands, a mounting sophistication in technology driven equipment, and no clear training program for future timber producers on how to use that technology, the view that lies ahead is unsettled at best. If those challenges were not enough to overcome, throw in a generally negative public perception, and the timber trade is challenged like never before.

There are; however, seeds of solutions being planted as well. The Timber Products Regional Skills Alliance has convened a group of professionals willing to strategize and act on the priority concerns. Participants' experience of this RSA range from how to grow trees, to

how to produce wood based products, and all the many steps in between. State Representatives and representatives from the Governor's office have been in attendance as well. "We're determining what the main focus of the RSA will be and how we can achieve maximum impact on some of these issues", states Dayna Keranen, RSA Administrator. "So far we've been able to create a data base of timber products businesses, make some preliminary surveys within the industry and identify some regional educational opportunities for those interested in careers in the timber products industry."

You may learn more about the Timber Products RSA and their future plans by visiting their newly established website at www.timberrsa.org.



GOVERNOR GRANHOLM CONGRATULATES MICHIGAN WORKS! AT GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON

At the 2006 Governor's Luncheon held at the UP State Fairgrounds, August 18th, over 300 community members listened to Governor Granholm deliver an engaging speech on her plan to transform Michigan's Economy.


Sponsored by the Delta County Chamber of Commerce and Michigan Works! The Job force Board, this annual luncheon was a great success. Granholm made several acknowledgements of the hard work and dedication of the Central Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! Team.

Governor Granholm reiterated words from her State of the State Address, "Thanks to our MI Opportunity Partnership, we're more successful than ever at training and placing unemployed people in good paying jobs that exist today in Michigan."

She went on to congratulate Michigan Works! The Job Force Board for their current number one ranking in the state for placing workers in jobs with a 97% success rate.

CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS
of improving the economy and quality of life in the central Upper Peninsula by bringing employers and job seekers together!

Upper Peninsula Business Works because...



MICHIGAN WORKS!
Visit our user-friendly Michigan Works! Service Centers in Escanaba, Iron Mountain, Manistique, Marquette, Menominee and Munising.

Join us for these upcoming Business After Hours Celebrations!

October 24, 5:00-7:00 PM CT
Pine Grove, Iron Mountain

November 7, 5:00-7:00 PM CT
Riverside, Menominee


We hope to see you there!

www.jobforce.org
(800) 285-WORKS

"My business works because Michigan Works!"

Services Offered for employers:

- Profiling jobs to determine necessary skills and abilities
- Writing job descriptions and advertisements
- Posting job openings on the Talent Bank and career websites
- Screening resumes and applicants
- Providing interview rooms and meeting facilities
- Training employees
- Helping with Human Resource administration issues
- Planning for business retention and expansion
- Offering Business Building Sessions on key issues



"I work because Michigan Works!"

Services Offered for job seekers:

- Linking job-seekers with local and regional Employment opportunities and job search web sites
- Testing ability and knowledge
- Offering employment and career skills workshops
- Helping with education financial aid forms
- Providing a resource library of links, videos and software for job seekers
- Offering Internet access, word processing equipment, phone and fax services
- Supplying information on employment policies and legal issues

MICHIGAN WORKS! **business is UP**

The Job Force Board and the Six County Employment Alliance
Serving Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee and Schoolcraft Counties.

Equal Opportunity Employer Michigan Relay Center (1-800-649-3777) Auxiliary Aids & Services Available to Individuals with Disabilities.

Contact us toll-free! 1-800-285-WORKS!

-or-

Catch us on the web! www.jobforce.org

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUTH WORKS! 2006 A SUCCESS!

We'd like to recognize and say thank you to the organizations that contributed to the success of Youth Works! 2006 for their dedication and commitment to the youth of our community.

DELTA COUNTY

Worksites:

Bishop Noa Home
Flinn's Flowers and Garden Center
Gladstone ABCD Afterschool Summer Program
Lakestate Industries
Magic Moments
Michigan DNR
MSU Extension
USDA Forest Service: Hiawatha National Forest
William Bonifas Fine Arts Center

Guest Speakers / Educational Tours:

Bay De Noc Community College

Business and Professional Women (BPW)
Conservation District (Gladstone)
Michigan Army National Guard
MSU Extension (Delta)
Northern Michigan Bank and Trust (Escanaba)

MARQUETTE COUNTY

Worksites:

Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership
Globe Printing
Great Lakes Radio
HOTplate
Little Punks Daycare
Marquette Arts and Culture Center
Marquette General Hospital
Mister McGregor's Garden
Negaunee Senior Citizen's Center
Northern Michigan University
Northern Veterinary Associates

UP Children's Museum
Vista Theatre - Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council
West Branch Community Center

Guest Speakers / Educational Tours:

HOTplate
MediRide, Inc.
MSU Extension (Marquette)
NMU Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship
Northern Michigan Bank and Trust (Marquette)
Northern Michigan University
Upper Peninsula Construction Council



MICHIGAN WORKS! STAFF ATTEND CUSTOMER SERVICE WORKSHOP

Take the best of Pike Place Fish Market®, Disney®, Nordstrom®, Southwest Airlines®, FED EX®, LL BEAN®, Stew Leonards®, Krispy Kreme®, Mitchells® and other WORLD CLASS customer service organizations, add 20 years of personal experience, sprinkle in over 150 books, articles and research studies, and this is the result! Customer service is THE KEY to the future success of any organization.

In a half-day workshop, "Achieving Customer Service Excellence", held at Bay College, Michigan Works! Human Resource Specialists Greg Jacobs and Jeff Higbie gathered invaluable customer service information to bring back to their workshops and to share with peers

This workshop was facilitated by Joe Constance through the Delta County Chamber of Commerce. "Joe did a great job of presenting a lively and informative workshop. By working in small groups, we discussed topics such as customer expectations, communication, and attitudes. We also took part in interactive exercises on teamwork and problem resolution," stated Greg.

Topics included; the top ten service mistakes customers hate, the top ten service details that customers rave about, the secrets of world class companies, seven critical elements to achieving excellence, and handling problems and complaints-how to be a fantastic fixer.

"Training like this adds incredible value to the services provided by Michigan Works!, to our business, partners, job seekers, job seekers and workforce leaders," stated Will Carne, President of the Job Force Board.

By providing staff with the tools they need, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board strives to provide our clients, partners and workforce leaders with the customer service they deserve. Providing staff with the tools they need brings us one step closer to that goal.

10TH ANNUAL EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT HELD IN MARQUETTE



From L to Right: Dr. Stephen Piereson, Joe Esbrook, Judy Watson-Olson, State Representative Rich Brown, Lisa Broman and Amy Gibbs.

Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA), an education all service organization, provides visionary leadership and promotes life-long learning opportunities for all individuals.

MARESA continues to support this mission by providing an opportunity for educators, business leaders and legislators to interact and discuss education issues impacting the Upper Peninsula through the Annual Education Legislative Summit.

The 10th Annual Summit brought together superintendents, board members, teachers, parents, and business and community leaders from the UP with Michigan legislators and other state officials. The purpose of the event was one of improving Michigan schools, specifically targeting the education of children in the UP.

The theme of this year's summit was

"Implementation of High School Reform in Rural Schools". A lineup of both education experts and legislators focused on the challenges and demands facing Michigan and emphasized the connection between education and economic growth.

A panel that consisted of a local high school principal, ISD principal, teacher, MARESA Tech Coordinator and student gave their perspective on the impact of high school reform. Beth Rood, an Escanaba High School Senior, reassured the audience not to underestimate the potential of students in light of curriculum requirements. She felt that the ones who will benefit from this reform will be average students who just need that extra nudge toward success.

Among the speakers, panelists and award recipients were Michigan legislators Senator Mike Prusi, Representative Stephen Adami, Representative Rich Brown and Representative Tom Casperson's aide, Marty Fittante. Dr. Les Wong, President of NMU, Michigan Lt. Governor John D. Cherry, and Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Michigan Department of Education delivered compelling messages to conference participants.

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board has been a longtime sponsor of the Education Legislative Summit and is proud to be involved in supporting this informative event for all involved in education.



Do your employees have the computer skills they need?

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WORKS!TM
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is **UP**



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- International Computer Driving License (ICDL) was created to help individuals become more competent with computer use, increasing their productivity at work, school and home.
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- ICDL Certified employees give them a new confidence in using a computer as a tool when entering an existing or new work environment
- Employers will have a better return on investment, higher productivity, and higher confidence in hiring ICDL Certified candidates
- Statistics show that ICDL certified candidates are more productive, less apt to rely on costly support services and ready to address the business of the enterprise
- Over 140 hours per year/per employee are lost in solving an employee's basic computer questions
- An ICDL Certified candidate will save an employer those lost hours because they will already be skilled and knowledgeable

Contact your local Michigan Works! to learn more!

alger

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f. 906.387.4938

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f. 906.228.4372

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f. 906.863.9986

schoolcraft

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f. 906.341.1112

toll free: 800.285.WORKS! (9675)

on the web: www.jobforce.org

Equal Opportunity Employer Michigan Relay Center (1-800-649-3777) Auxiliary Aids & Services Available to Individuals with Disabilities.