



U.P. APPROVED FOR INFRAGARD CHAPTER

The State Board of Directors for Michigan's InfraGard organization recently approved the formation of a chapter in the Upper Peninsula. InfraGard is a Public-Private Partnership for professional networking and mutual aid between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the private sector including businesses, academic institutions, state and local law enforcement

agencies, and other participants dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the United States. "We've been working with the State Board for several months to make this happen," said Alan Yeck, Executive Director for the M-TEC at Bay College. "While we've had access to other chapters' downstate, it was critical to Michigan's infrastructure that we had one in our own area."

that is not available to the general public, from intelligence base encompassing multiple government agencies, national, and global sources. InfraGard members across the nation are linked to each other and to the FBI by the Bureau's secure "alert network." Companies can anonymously report incidents to all other members without fear of publicizing their vulnerability. The FBI provides encryption software developed to protect information exchange among members.

For more information and a U.P. Chapter membership application, please contact Alan Yeck at 906.789.6902 x1132 or via email at yecka@baycollege.edu. The State Board of InfraGard, along with the FBI, will be the lunchtime Keynote presenters for the upcoming, "I.T. in the U.P" conference September 22 at M-TEC. There are no fees to join Michigan InfraGard. To become a member you must represent a legitimate business and support the InfraGard Code of Ethics (contained in the application packet).



Michigan InfraGard brings members face-to-face with regional expertise, while connecting them to the resources of the FBI and DHS (Department of Homeland Security). Yeck continued, "This is a Chapter of inclusion, with quarterly meetings rotating throughout the entire Upper Peninsula. We seek participation from all 15 counties." Through the FBI members have access to information



LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Michigan Works! The Job Force Board looks forward to working with LSCPs newest employee. Changes in the economic development department bring Dave Hendrickson to the Lake Superior Community Partnership. Dave is taking on the role of Business Development Specialist where he is responsible for implementing the Business Retention Program and other membership duties. Since 80% of economic growth comes from existing business, Dave will be visiting with business owners throughout Marquette County to explore ways to help them grow. The

goal is to visit all Marquette county business to offer direct assistance as needed. Dave has previous experience in the finance and telecommunications industries. He is a board member and past President of the Marquette Noon Kiwanis and fiancé chair at St Michael's Church. Dave also holds a B.A. and a M.A. degree from Northern Michigan University. Dave will be responsible for LSCP membership recruitment and retention activities, and will take over as staff for the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation.

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NEW FUNDING FUELS LOCAL EFFORTS TO SOLVE LABOR CHALLENGES IN HEALTH



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
(Courtesy of www.michigan.gov)

You may have heard that Governor Jennifer Granholm recently announced that 13 Michigan universi-



ties and community colleges would receive more than \$17 million in grants to accelerate training for nurses and other health care professionals. We would like to take this time to congratulate the partnership and efforts of Northern Michigan University, Marquette General Hospital, and the Upper Peninsula Healthcare Roundtable Regional Skills Alliance partners in being one of only 13 collaboratives across the State to receive the funding.

The grants, which are part of the MI Opportunity Partnership, are expected to train more than 1,200 health professionals, in-

cluding RNs, LPNs, clinical nurse faculty, and allied health professionals across Michigan. The grant monies received through this recent grant will go to train over 90 UP health professionals, reaching all corners of the Upper Peninsula.

Data obtained by a UP Healthcare Roundtable and Job Force Board survey shows that the UP has many high-quality, well paying, family sustaining jobs that are currently vacant and need to be filled right now. These grants will enable our universities and community colleges to help meet this cur-



rent demand for high-skilled health care workers sooner. The survey shows this need not slowing down, and extending well into the future, making this and future workforce training all the more important to the quality of life and economic viability to the entire Upper Peninsula Region.

Should you see representatives from NMU, MGH, or the UP Healthcare Roundtable, please take a moment and congratulate them on their hard work and success. The awarding of this grant would not have been made possible without the true, regional collaboration and strategic workforce development partnership that was formed, and is displayed by the group. We expect to hear many more success stories from this partnership and the UP Healthcare Roundtable Regional Skills Alliance partners as they work together to help solve the current and future healthcare workforce needs of the UP.

PUPPET SHOWS ENTICE KIDS INTO HEALTH CARE JOBS

Jim Henson would be proud as kids stared mesmerized at floppy puppets wearing scrubs and stethoscopes. Little did they know the puppeteers were planting seeds in their young minds steering them towards careers in the health care field. Since last fall, Angela Mason-Epper and Katherine Reynolds of the Northern Area Health Education Cen-



ter (NAHEC) have been traveling throughout Northern Michigan putting on a health career puppet program in to children from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The program is part of an initiative to recruit health care professionals to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower

Michigan.

The program is entitled "The Great Hospital Adventure" and features six health career puppets – a Physical Therapist, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, a Radiological Technician, an Emergency Medical Technician, a Medical Doctor, and a Nurse. The program highlights these careers and utilizes the diverse puppets to expose children to 9-1-1 and

healthy choices. So far they've visited 12 schools free of charge.

Third grade might seem a little young to start planning a career, but it's been proven that elementary students who work with area health education centers have a better chance of practicing in a

rural clinic. That's good for the Upper Peninsula, particularly when the health care worker shortage is nation-wide. Why not just send a video? "You'd be surprised at how children can just sit there in awe of puppets." Says Angela Mason-Epper, Program Specialist. "Puppets grab their attention. Even adults get excited if you hand them a puppet!"

In January, NAHEC and Northern Michigan University started virtual field trips with a live broadcast puppet show to cover their 47 counties more efficiently. "The program let's kids know that *they* could be a doctor, nurse, or physical therapist too" says Mason-Epper.

For more information about this program, please contact Angela Mason or Kathy Reynolds at (906) 225-6920.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED: COMPUTER CLASSES TEACH VETS TO FIND AND TRACK MEDICAL INFO ON THE NET



Congressman Bart Stupak and others look on as a veteran demonstrates his new computer skills.

and clinicians come together to optimize veteran's health care. Veterans can now build their own personal health record by self-entering information on medicines, medical visits and military health history. In addition, the program will allow veterans to record and track personal health reading to improve communications with their health providers. Seniors and veterans will learn basic computer skills, Internet use such as e-mailing, searches, and informational sites. One of the informational sites being featured My Health e Vet www.myhealth.va.gov

A program in Dickinson, Iron and Menominee Counties is creating an on-line environment where veterans, families

employs local tech-savvy high school students to teach the classes and is part of UGLETI's (Upper Great Lakes Educa-

tion Technologies Inc.) U.P. wide initiative to teach computer basics and stimulate demand for broadband internet access.



"We are very excited to be able to offer this training to area veterans and senior citizens and pilot the online health care program. This is an opportunity for our technology students to share the skills they've learned in high school classes and try out new roles as teachers." said Dee Benjamin, who serves as the local project director. Michigan Works! is currently running a similar program for the general population with UGLETI in the Central U.P.

UGLETI partnered with The Iron Mountain Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Mathematics, Science and Technology Center and the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District. The kick off for Serving Those Who

Served and My Health e Vet was July 7th with Congressman Bart Stupak at the VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. Serving Those Who Served is a program free to the public. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the efforts of Congressman Stupak, the DIISD and Upper Great Lakes Educational Technologies, Inc. matching in-kind funds were provided by the Math and Science Center. Currently all three sites are filled and we have a waiting list. If funding permits, they hope to be able to offer a repeat of the program in the fall.

According to Andrew Bek, Executive Director of UGLETI, the success of last summer's pilot Youth Corps projects in Dickinson and Marquette counties led to a region wide initiative this summer in all fifteen Upper Peninsula counties. Over 500 adult learners will be introduced to the technology of the Internet by over 50 youth trainers in over twenty rural communities. This program is an outgrowth of the UP Link Michigan project and is designed to stimulate demand for Broadband internet access. According to Bek, "We're working together to create a totally connected community."

NEW TECHNOLOGY LAB IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

You may not realize it, but a lot of the technology you use every day was initially designed with people with disabilities in mind. Wireless mice, trackballs, voice recognition software we all benefit from "assistive technology" in some way or another. You also may not realize that you can find the mother lode of assistive technology gadgets right in Marquette! Sara Menzel of United Cerebral Palsy has set up The Assistive Technology Center, a little computer lab in the MARESA building, available to citizens with disabilities, rehabilitation professionals, teachers, students and other interested parties so they can try out software and devices that increase independent computer use.

The Center has five laptops that it can lend out to people who've completed an assistive technology assess-

ment but who don't have the resources to buy a computer of their own. "We are very excited that people can come in and try out the software and devices that we have at the Center! There has never been such a resource in the U.P. before", says Sara Menzel, Center manager. People go there to get help figuring out what technology would work best to increase their ability to function at home, at work, at school or in the community. The Center then helps them acquire what they need.

It's worth dropping by just to check out the neat gadgets. Examples include talking pens that transfer books and newspapers to electronic text that is then read by the computer; voice recognition programs that type what is spoken into a microphone, and communication software

that speaks for someone who has limited ability to communicate due to stroke, brain injury or autism. The Center, which opened in June 2001, is the only one of its kind in the Upper Peninsula and has helped more than 150 individuals receive assistive devices. According to Sara, it can handle more use, so spread the word. The Center also provides training workshops about assistive technology devices and software as well as informational presentations to community agencies. Go visit the lab every Wednesday from 3 to 6 pm on 321 E. Ohio St. in Marquette. For more information about the Assistive Technology Center, contact Sara Menzel at (906) 226-9903 or menzel@ucpmichigan.org.



Sara Menzel of United Cerebral Palsy shows off gadgets from her computer lab.

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