

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

# CEO REPORT

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ■ CURRENT PROJECTS ■ REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT  
2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ■ FISCAL REPORTS

# Letter from the CEO

The year 2019 was exciting for Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!. Over the past year, we have looked at creative and innovative partnerships to better serve the employers and job seekers of our region. We worked with more than 2,000 employers to help them identify and fulfill their talent needs in this time of low unemployment. We also saw continued investment by our employers to grow and support their labor force through programs such as Going Pro, Community Ventures, and the Great Lakes Bay Business Resource Network. Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! was also on hand to advocate on behalf of our employers, testifying in front of federal and state legislators in support of valuable workforce development programs.

Over 80,000 visitors were seen at our five GLBMW! service centers in 2019. Our year-over-year traffic patterns have remained constant, averaging approximately four visits per job seeker. As we strive for constant improvement, we have moved forward in implementing a new case management model across our programs. In this new approach, our front-line service providers will approach our program participants with a case management model that emphasized a more holistic, whole-person approach. We are the first MWA to apply this model across programs.

This year we also proactively worked to meet the future needs of our region through programs focused on the employees of tomorrow. Our commitment to the long-term goal of creating a future talent pipeline was realized in MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan and Jobs for Michigan Graduates. The first annual MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan was an incredible success, with over 10,000 students, teachers, counselors, exhibitors, and volunteers converging on SVSU in the state's largest career exploration event. Additionally, our Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) program launched in Gratiot and Isabella counties, serving 166 high-risk students in four high schools.

As we look to 2020, we will continue to strive to provide excellent programs and services specifically designed to meet the needs of the Great Lakes Bay Region's employers and job seekers now, and into the future.

Respectfully,



Chris Rishko



# regional PERSPECTIVE



2019 SUMMARY, LABOR FORCE SNAPSHOT,  
INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT, OCCUPATION SNAPSHOT





# 2019 At a Glance

81,766

Total Visits (-9%)

21,190

Jobs Seekers  
Served (-2%)

1,845

Employers Served

7,760

Jobs Filled

2019 witnessed a 9% decrease in overall traffic at our service centers from 2018 totals. The number of individuals who visited our service centers declined by 2% year-over-year. This disparity equates to a reduction of visits/job seekers from 4.2 in 2018 to 3.9 in 2019. This change is fairly consistent with the strong job market we are currently witnessing: more job opportunities, less visits to Michigan Works!.

Employers served and jobs posted/filled numbers are fairly consistent year-over-year. Jobs posted/filled maintained a 2:1 jobs posted to jobs filled ratio in both 2018 and 2019.





# Labor Force Snapshot

## Demographic Profile

The population in the Great Lakes Bay Region at the close of 2019 was estimated to be 491,665 - a decrease of approximately 3% from 2010 (506,181). ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The region has a civilian labor force of 208,982 with a labor force participation rate of 57.9% (61.2%- MI, 63.3%-U.S.). Of individuals aged 25 to 64 in the Great Lakes Bay Region, 36.3% have a Bachelor's degree or higher, which compares with 39.8% for Michigan and 41.3% for the nation. ([www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org))

The median household income in the Great Lakes Bay Region is \$46,845 (\$52,668 - Michigan, \$57,652 - U.S.) and the median house value is \$105,639, as compared to \$136,400 for Michigan and \$193,500 for the U.S. ([www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org))

## Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Great Lakes Bay Region	\$45,904	89.1	\$51,500
Michigan	\$53,331	100.6	\$53,001
USA	\$57,681	100.0	\$57,681

5

## Employment Trends

As of 2019 Q3, total employment for our region was 208,982 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Since 2010, employment in the region has decreased by approx 14% (243,976). Over the year ending 2019 Q3, employment increased 0.9% in the region. ([www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org))

## Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for our region was 4.7% as of November 2019. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 3.7% (4.0% - MI). One year earlier, in November 2018, the unemployment rate in the Great Lakes Bay Region was 4.4%. ([www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org))

## Wage Trends

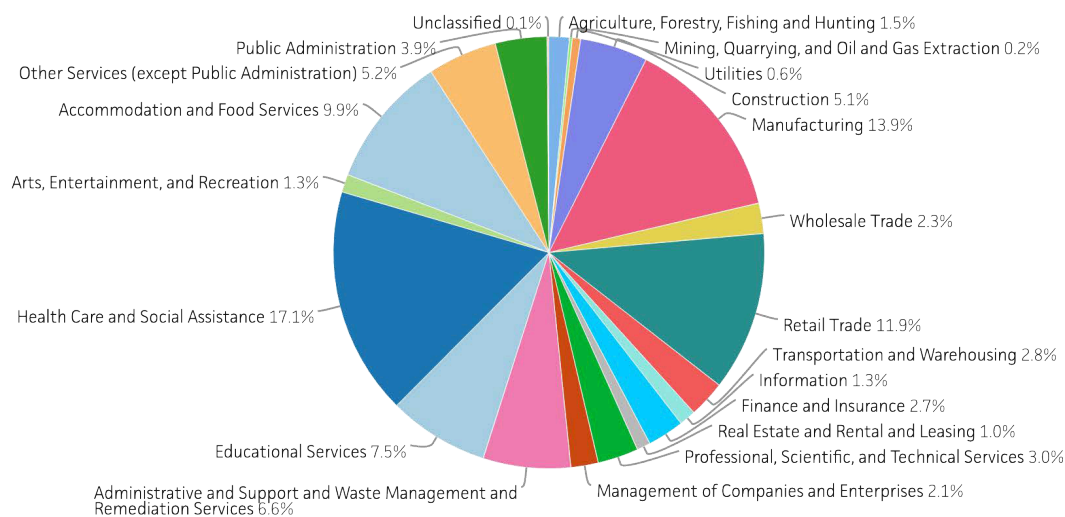
The average worker in the Great Lakes Bay Region earned annual wages of \$45,904 as of 2019 Q3. Average annual wages per worker decreased 3.3% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$57,681 in the nation as of 2019 Q3. ([www.milmi.org](http://www.milmi.org))



# Industry Snapshot

The largest sectors in our region are healthcare and social assistance, employing 35,643 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are manufacturing (28,996 workers) and retail trade (24,912 workers). High location quotients (LQ's) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQ's in the region are manufacturing (LQ = 1.68), management of companies and enterprises (1.37), and utilities (1.22).

Total Workers for Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2019Q3

Sectors in the Great Lakes Bay Region with the highest average wages per worker are management of companies and enterprises (\$139,734), utilities (\$91,561), and manufacturing (\$70,309). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last five years are manufacturing (+1,975 jobs), transportation and warehousing (+765 jobs), and other services (except public administration) (+637 jobs).

Over the next five years, employment in the Great Lakes Bay Region is projected to contract by 5,717 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be healthcare and social assistance with a +0.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for healthcare and social assistance (+864 jobs), construction (+62), and accommodation and food services (+33).



# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Great Lakes Bay Region is office and administrative support occupations, employing 27,130 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are sales and related occupations (21,517 workers) and food preparation and serving related occupations (20,002). High location quotients (LQ's) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQ's in the region are production occupations (LQ = 1.54), healthcare support occupations (LQ = 1.29), and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations (LQ = 1.25).

Occupation groups in the Great Lakes Bay Region with the highest average wages per worker are management occupations (\$103,200), healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (\$77,400), and architecture and engineering occupations (\$74,700). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.6% among healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, to 9.0% among farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.

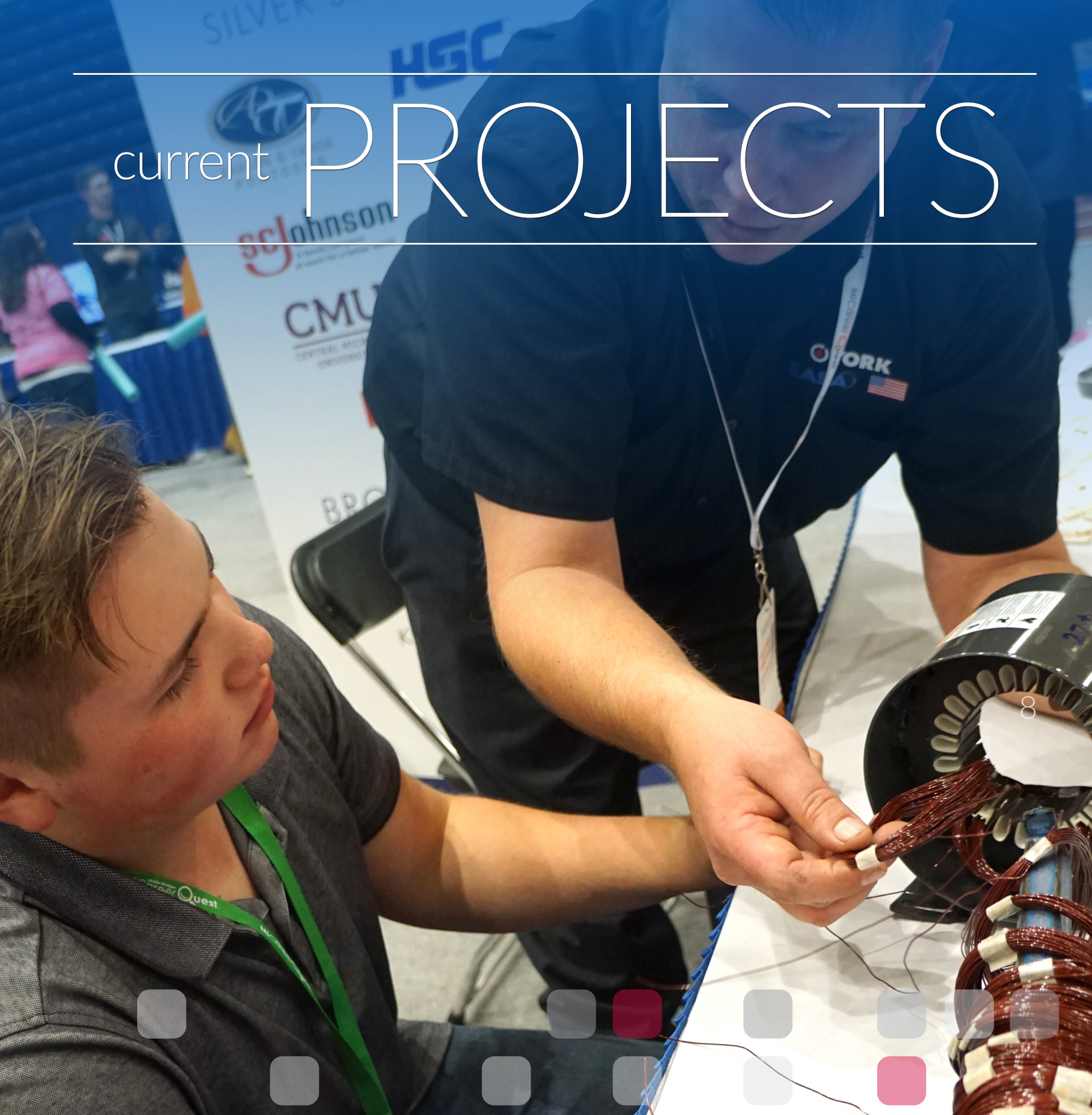
Over the next five years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Great Lakes Bay Region is expected to be healthcare support occupations with a +0.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for healthcare support occupations (+280 jobs) and personal care and service occupations (+226). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in food preparation and serving related occupations (17,057 jobs) and office and administrative support occupations (14,254).

7

Occupation	Current				5-Year Forecast	
	Empl	Avg Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
Office and Administrative Support	27,130	\$35,800	1,091	4.0%	-1,737	-1.3%
Sales and Related	21,517	\$35,700	1,146	5.4%	-1,200	-1.1%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	20,002	\$23,300	1,489	7.4%	75	0.1%
Production	19,238	\$38,300	886	4.7%	-1,443	-1.5%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	14,680	\$77,400	222	1.6%	63	0.1%
Transportation and Material Moving	11,980	\$34,400	724	5.9%	-427	-0.7%
Management	11,663	\$103,200	214	1.8%	-253	-0.4%
Education, Training, and Library	10,526	\$52,200	355	3.3%	-399	-0.8%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	9,053	\$28,400	560	6.4%	-186	-0.4%
Personal Care and Service	9,011	\$25,500	474	5.1%	226	0.5%
Business and Financial Operations	8,802	\$63,500	263	2.9%	-198	-0.5%
Construction and Extraction	8,555	\$45,800	586	6.8%	19	0.0%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	8,203	\$44,000	236	3.0%	-262	-0.6%
Healthcare Support	7,370	\$29,700	284	3.9%	280	0.7%
Architecture and Engineering	4,431	\$74,700	107	2.4%	-88	-0.4%
Community and Social Service	3,650	\$44,100	90	2.5%	66	0.4%
Computer and Mathematical	3,605	\$70,200	85	2.3%	-29	-0.2%
Protective Service	3,602	\$43,600	109	3.0%	-140	-0.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,691	\$41,600	87	3.1%	-102	-0.8%
Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,193	\$62,400	30	2.5%	-20	-0.3%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,106	\$26,700	103	9.0%	-55	-1.0%
Legal	974	\$74,200	18	1.8%	-13	-0.3%
<b>Total - All</b>	<b>208,982</b>	<b>\$44,700</b>	<b>9,158</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>-5,717</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>



# current PROJECTS



MI CAREER QUEST MIDDLE MICHIGAN,  
JOBS FOR MICHIGAN GRADUATES, BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORK,  
CASE MANAGEMENT MODEL





The goal of the event was to create an experience unlike any other career and college-readiness event. The results were far beyond expectations. On October 30, 2019, over 10,000 students, teachers, exhibitors and volunteers converged on SVSU for the state's largest career exploration event. More than 100 schools and more than 90 organizations were represented at the first annual MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan. Participant feedback for the event was overwhelmingly positive. Our surveys reported a 76% approval rating across all participants. Students and educators reported a 76% approval, and exhibitors responded with a 91% positive approval rating!

Planning has already started for MiCareerQuest 2020. This year's event will occur on Oct 30, 2020 at SVSU's Ryder Center.



**8,850  
Students**



**500  
Teachers &  
Counselors**



**629  
Exhibitors**



**175  
Volunteers**



**2,500  
Staff Hours**



**75%  
Approval  
Rating**



**\$275,000  
Cost**



Please forward this to your industry peers!

# Jobs For Michigan Graduates

Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, Youth Solutions, Inc., and Institute for Excellence in Education are partnering to bring the Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) program to the Great Lakes Bay Region. This innovative program is focused on increasing graduation rates and decreasing youth unemployment by equipping young adults with the skills to overcome barriers and win in education, employment, and as citizens.

For the 2019/2020 academic year, and in cooperation with Youth Solutions and Institute for Excellence in Education, Jobs for Michigan Graduates has launched programs in four schools in Gratiot & Isabella Counties (Shepard, Mt. Pleasant, Odyssey, and St Louis) serving 166 students to date. As we gather data for this pilot initiative, we are determining scalability and sustainability across our five-county region. Discussions are also taking place concerning a joint initiative with Michigan Works! Region 7B to bring JMG to Bay Arenac ISD.



Windover H.S. JMG students at MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2019.

10

## A New Case Management Model

### A New Approach to Case Management Services

Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! staff identified a need for a new case management model. Models were researched and an RFP was let to procure a curriculum for implementation across the Great Lakes Bay region.

We are seeking a case management approach that is an evidence-informed, customer-centered framework for setting and achieving goals in human services. It will include a curriculum platform that supports training existing and future staff members. It will also include technical support from the provider to ensure the curriculum is fully understood and implemented.

The case management approach will support GLBMW! staff members in moving from traditional case management practices to a more collaborative approach with participants. The participant will be directly involved in personal goal setting, and will be coached in support of the goals they set for themselves.

Similar career coaching models have been piloted by two other Michigan Works! agencies with encouraging results.



# Business Resource Network

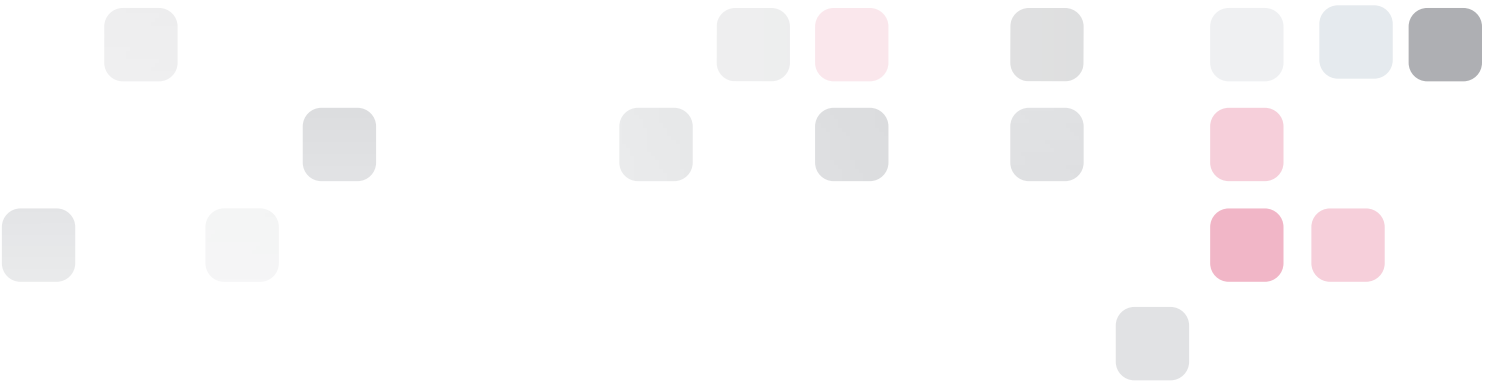
The Business Resource Network (BRN) is a multi-business collaborative comprised of local companies aiming to address employee turnover and its substantial cost (\$5,500/employee). At its core is the reality that too many employees are one flat tire away from a life crisis that affects their work productivity.

Companies participating in a BRN have an experienced success coach who works on-site at each business as an extension of their Human Resource department. Success coaches may provide assistance to employees to help manage life's challenges (e.g. childcare, transportation, housing), so employees can be more reliable and productive. For employers, these services help to reduce turnover and create a more stable

workforce. Phase I of the GLBMW! BRN initiative was officially launched in November 2019 with the hiring of BRN Director Bret Hyble. Bret is first targeting Gratiot and Isabella counties to establish the first BRN in the region, and has been actively meeting with area employers to determine the best model for the BRN, with a great deal of success. Additionally in February of 2020, the first success coach for the Gratiot/Isabella BRN was hired. Phase II will include the active recruitment of employers interested in participating in the network.



Bret Hyble



regional

# SPOTLIGHT

SUCCESS STORIES FOR EMPLOYERS & JOB SEEKERS





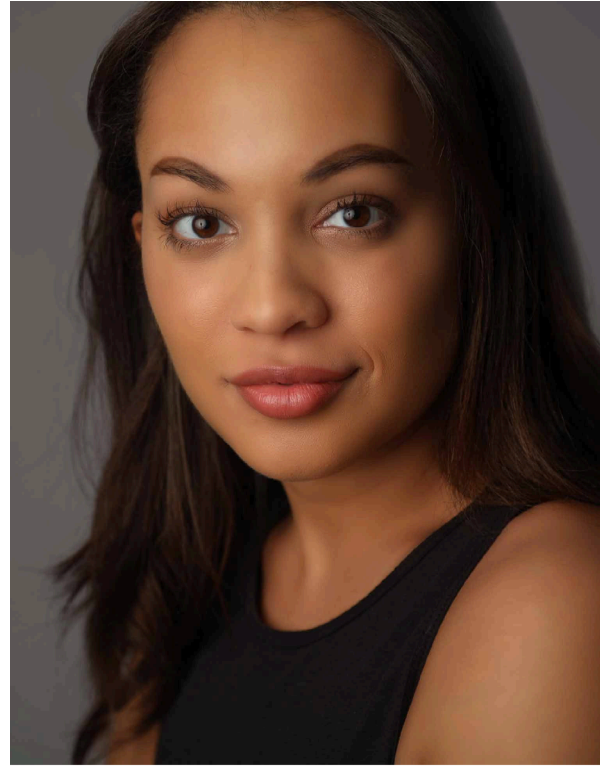
# Success Stories

## GLBMW! Paves Pathway to a Living Wage

Danielle Parks is a 24 year old who came to the Michigan Works! Service center in Saginaw. She was working part-time as an office assistant attending Davenport University to earn a marketable credential. She always had a dream of working in the medical field and had a long-term goal of earning full-time employment in health services administration. Danielle started her college path in 2014 on her own, struggling to make ends meet. Danielle worked part-time jobs to assist with life and her growing bills. She came to us seeking help with completing her credential.

A Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! career manager started off assisting Danielle with her training needs, working with Davenport to project a timetable for earning a marketable credential. These projections included supply costs. The career manager had to complete a special local waiver request submitted to Administration for Danielle to receive assistance with these items she would need. That waiver request was approved and she received an additional amount for supplies and books.

Shortly after the payment was made for her schooling and supplies, Danielle began to have issues with her transportation to and from school. Danielle worked with the career manager to complete the support service process and attain the estimates needed for car repairs. She was able to receive the funding she would need to get her car repairs done at Kan Rock.



13

*Danielle completed her bachelor's degree on 04/30/2019 and was hired as a community health worker at Genesee Health Plan in Flint. She started working 40 hours a week earning a self-sufficient wage of \$15.50.*

## GLBMW! Helps Gratiot Area Youth Start a New Career in Welding

Joseph Eager attended a WIOA Youth Program information session on January 3, 2019 at the our service center in Gratiot County. He began a process for enrollment and started to explore his training options that related to his interests. Joseph was interested in training to become a welder and explored the welding training program offered by Merrill Institute in Alma. He worked with his career coach, Jerry Williams, to remediate his basic math skills in preparation for taking an entry assessment for the Merrill course. With the remediation and assistance, he was able to increase his basic math skills. Joseph participated in an Essential Work Skills workshop to explore and learn productive work attitudes that lead to gaining and retaining employment. Joseph was prepared when he went to his interview and testing at Merrill Institute and was accepted into their Welding Training.

On February 25, 2019, Joseph entered the six-week welding course at Merrill Institute. Michigan Works! funded the tuition for Joseph's participation in this training program. He completed his training on April 5, 2019, earning a nationally recognized certification for entry level welding skills.

Joseph engaged in a job search, resulting in employment with a local machine shop with some welding opportunities. He continued to seek employment as a full-time welder.



*Joseph successfully found full-time employment with Trillium Staffing and is working the Merrill Fab Plant in Alma. He likes working at Merrill Fab and plans to continue to increase his skills and move up the career ladder. Joseph stated, "Michigan Works! helped me to succeed!"*



# Light at the End of the Tunnel



15

Michael Skuczas started coming into the service center in Gratiot County last September to seek work. Michael, a Veteran, had been without employment for quite some time and was feeling hopeless about becoming employed again. Employment Service staff looked at Michael's resume and noticed that he had many quality skills from past work experiences. The Employment Service staff assisted him with updating his resume, creating a reference page and giving him job leads. Michael spent many hours in the service center using the lobby computers to job search, fax applications and use the service center phone to call potential employers. Michael was referred to the Gratiot County Veterans Career Advisor, who was able to assist him with his job search and refer him to community support services in the Gratiot County area. Michael's

persistence finally paid off when he obtained full-time employment at Precision Machining earning \$10.50 per hour. Michael stated, "I have the wonderful people at Michigan Works! to thank for all their help and support." Michael really enjoys his job and has since purchased a car. He has plans next month to get his own place to live.

*Michael has learned that you have to stay positive and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.*



# 2020 Legislative PRIORITIES



16

2020 FEDERAL/STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES





### WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FUNDING

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Over nearly two decades, instead of continuing to invest in our workforce, federal investments have been cut.

#### ACTION:

**Increase funding for WIOA workforce and adult education grants to at least FY 2021 authorized levels and restore career and technical education (CTE) state grant funding to \$1.3 billion.**

We need to continue to urge Congress to increase funding for WIOA. Despite messages of strong bipartisan support for skills policy, over the past 16 years, Congress has slashed funding for state job training grants by 40%, CTE grants by 30% and adult education grants by 20%.

After nearly two decades of disinvestment, workers and businesses need significant new investment in skills and retention supports today to support the workforce of tomorrow. This disinvestment has left businesses struggling to find skilled workers and left workers without pathways to better-paying jobs.

### TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF ) REAUTHORIZATION

TANF funding and policy is currently year-to-year. There will be a serious effort to reauthorize TANF in 2020, which will be difficult in an election year.

#### ACTION:

**Modernize TANF to support training opportunities.**

More than 80% of today's jobs require postsecondary education and training, but less than 10% of adult TANF recipients have education beyond high school. Congress should update TANF to expand access to high-quality training and education that leads to in-demand credentials.

17

#### ACTION:

**Replace the TANF work participation rate with WIOA performance metrics for employment outcomes.**

We suggest expanding the list of allowable activities to include high school equivalency programs, apprenticeship and CTE. We need to establish greater alignment between WIOA and TANF, given that more TANF individuals are being served at one-stop career centers.

### COLLEGE TRANSPARENCY ACT (HR 1766/S 800)

The College Transparency Act establishes a privacy-protected system to collect and report student outcome data so that college applicants can better understand their return on investment. It strengthens educational access for minorities, women and veterans, bolsters the American workforce, decreases the skills gap, and helps educational institutions take concrete steps to improve student success.

#### ACTION:

**Strengthen educational access for minorities, women, and veterans**

The College Transparency Act will develop and maintain a secure, privacy-protected postsecondary student-level data system that will provide information on the general pricing for universities and degree programs as well as give families access to a portal or database where they can learn about average salaries and statistics for all Americans, including minorities and veterans.

The Act will also push more regular disclosures to student borrowers during the lifetime of their loan, including while they are still in college, improving students' financial literacy and helping borrowers understand the financial commitments they are making.

## JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESSES BY SUPPORTING STUDENTS (JOBS) ACT OF 2019 (HR 3497/S 839)

The JOBS Act would close the skills gap by expanding Pell Grant eligibility to cover high-quality and rigorous short-term job training programs so workers can afford the skills training and credentials that are in high-demand in today's job market.

### ACTION:

Broaden the definition of higher education to include quality career and technical programs and ensure federal policy supports this change.

The JOBS Act amends the Higher Education Act to expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in high-quality job training programs that are at least eight weeks in length and lead to industry-recognized credentials and certificates. Under the bill, eligible programs would offer training that meets the needs of the local or regional workforce.

In Michigan, employers are desperate for talent, and, in most cases, cannot wait for workers to complete two- to four-year programs. The economy has been strong for many years and we need to be investing in workforce now to prepare for a potential recession/pullback.

Passage of the JOBS Act would also provide assistance toward meeting Governor Whitmer's statewide goal of 60% of Michigan adults earning a postsecondary education credential by 2030.

## BUILDING U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE BY LEVERAGING DEMANDS FOR SKILLS (BUILDS) ACT(HR 2831/S 1517)

This bill requires the U.S. Department of Labor to award implementation or renewal grants, for up to three years and on a competitive basis, to eligible industry or sector partnerships to achieve certain strategic objectives with respect to targeted infrastructure industries (i.e. transportation, construction, energy, information technology, or utilities industries).

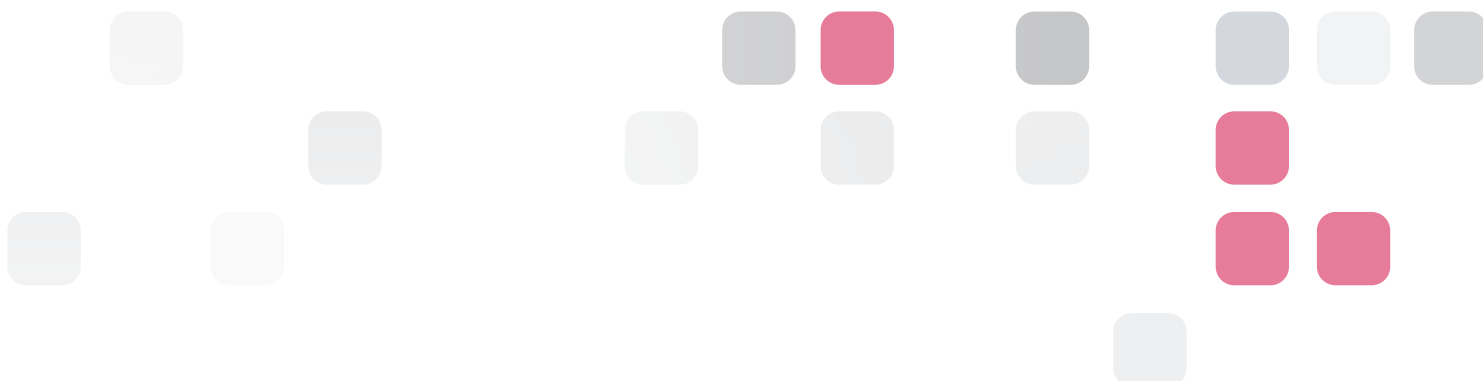
### ACTION:

Ensure that any infrastructure bill includes new dollars for training partnerships, consistent with the bipartisan BUILDS Act.

18

President Trump and Congressional Democrats have proposed significant new investments in our nation's roads, bridges, and other infrastructure. These efforts could create millions of new jobs in the coming years, but nearly half would require some education and training beyond high school. We will need to ramp up our support for apprenticeships and other skills strategies to keep up with demand.

Apprenticeship is a valuable tool for workforce boards and employers. More non-traditional industries are looking to use the apprenticeship model and federal policy should help encourage more industries to explore them.





### GOING PRO TALENT FUND

The Going PRO Talent Fund has proven to be one of the most effective resources available to address Michigan's talent crisis.

Each year, funding for the Talent Fund must be included in the state budget and approved by the legislature and the Governor. This program has a direct impact on the professional trades workforce gap of over 545,000 job openings we will be facing by 2026.

### ACTION:

**Secure funding for FY 2020 & increase funding for FY 2021**

Funding for the Going PRO Talent Fund was line-item vetoed from the FY 2020 budget by Governor Whitmer. The state estimates that 22,000 Michigan workers will be denied critical training and potential salary gains if the Talent Fund monies are not restored. For funding to be restored, it needs to be included in a supplemental budget bill. We may want to ask the legislature to add a line item that provides for a \$1 placeholder for Going PRO Talent Fund monies to be added back to the budget.

Since the inception of the Talent Fund in 2014, nearly \$100 million has been awarded to more than 3,000 businesses across the state, resulting in the retention of 77,542 jobs. The Talent Fund is an enormously successful program that should receive increased funding if possible. The value of increasing funding for the program must be illustrated throughout 2020 to the Governor, lawmakers, the public and the media to ensure funding is included in the FY 2021 budget.

### ACTION:

**Rebranding, Alignment and Accountability**

The Going PRO Talent Fund is a key component to the strategy of improving access to training and skills development. In order to ensure 'buy-in' from both the current administration and lawmakers and differentiate the program from the Going PRO advertising campaign, Michigan Works! recommends rebranding Going PRO Talent Fund. 19

To align with efforts to increase postsecondary attainment for every Michigander, Going PRO Talent Fund should be revised to include some measurements to ensure that certifications attained are in-demand across industries - whether that's through a two- or four-year degree, skills certification, or union apprenticeship program.

### ONE-STOP SERVICE CENTER SYSTEM ACT

The Michigan Works! One-Stop Service Center System Act (Act 491 of 2006) established the Michigan Works! One-Stop Service Center System to provide an integrated and coordinated system for delivery of workforce development programs and services tailored to local needs.

It may be advantageous to look at the act to see how it can be amended to integrate the System even further.

### ACTION:

**Look for opportunities to strengthen objectives by which Michigan Works! network services are measured**

The Act doesn't specify objectives by which the Michigan Works! network should be measured. Explore ways this section of the Act could potentially be amended to shape and strengthen measurable objectives.

**Include Wagner-Peyser and/or TAA in this act or another vehicle**

One of the ways the One-Stop System Act can be strengthened is by amending the Act to include other sections of the Wagner-Peyser Act and/or Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) - or another vehicle - in the act. Research needs to be undertaken to determine how this can be achieved.

## MI RECONNECT PROGRAM

One of Governor Whitmer's workforce priorities is to create the MI Reconnect Program.

The MI Reconnect Program is designed for adults age 25 and over who are seeking employment in an in-demand career field, have little to no college, and are pursuing a certificate or degree.

The program will provide last-dollar tuition assistance to enroll at a community college. Efforts are underway to create the MI Reconnect Program in state statute in 2020.

## ACTION:

**Establish the Michigan Works! network as the single point of contact**

Meet with legislators and the Governor to present the case for the Michigan Works! network serving as the single point of contact/entry for the MI Reconnect Program. Michigan Works! staff are trained to identify multiple other resources that may be braided to assist MI Reconnect participants with funding their credentialed training.

## ACTION:

**Expansion beyond community colleges**

Advocate to legislators, and the Governor, that MI Reconnect needs to be expanded to cover more than just community college tuition to things like apprenticeship programs and industry-based certifications.

## ACTION:

**Secure funding for implementation**

Once the hurdle of creating the MI Reconnect program in-state statute is cleared, the legislature will have to allocate funding in the state budget to support the program. Given the role the Michigan Works! network wants to play in the implementation of MI Reconnect, it is critical to work closely with employers to advocate to legislators the important role the program plays in closing the skills gap to ensure funding is secured for the program.

20

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Many clients the Michigan Works! System serves are Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants. In order to ensure UI claimants get the best service possible from the Michigan Works! network, changes need to be made to state statute and to activities that are considered valid work search activities.

## ACTION:

**Codify in-person, one-stop visit by claimant within the first 30 days of benefit received**

State statute does not specifically stipulate that unemployment claimants must report to a Michigan Works! one-stop office in person, nor does it stipulate a time frame in which they should report, which means the possibility exists that it could be changed to stipulate that claimants no longer need to report in person.

Steps need to be taken in 2020 to work with the legislature to codify in state statute that claimants must report in person to a Michigan Works! One-Stop office and that they need to do that within the first 30 days of benefit received.

## ACTION:

**Modernize and broaden countable work search activities**

Work search, as it is in state statute, is prescriptive, over 20 years old and desperately needs to be modernized. The items that count as work search activities need to be broadened to include things such as job exploration as well as education and training. Discussions with employers across the state would be helpful in determining the best array of activities to add that would count as work search activities.





A report by  
Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!  
CEO Christopher Rishko