



MICHIGAN  
**WORKS!**  
ASSOCIATION®

# IMPACT AWARDS

May 10, 2023

# EVENT AGENDA

## 11:00 OPENING REMARKS

Ryan Hundt  
CEO, Michigan Works! Association

Rebecca Bahar-Cook - Emcee  
CEO, Capitol Fundraising Associates  
MWA Board Member

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (video)

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (video)

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (video)

Stephanie Beckhorn  
Director, LEO - Employment & Training

Susan Corbin  
Director, Michigan Department of Labor  
and Economic Opportunity

## 11:30 AWARDS CEREMONY

## 12:45 CLOSING REMARKS

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist

Ryan Hundt

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## Influencing, educating, and inspiring actions that keep Michigan working!



### VOICE

Advancing the interest of the Michigan Works! network through advocacy and participation in the legislative process



### KNOWLEDGE

Sharing research-based best practices, information, and practical details about the Michigan Works! Network

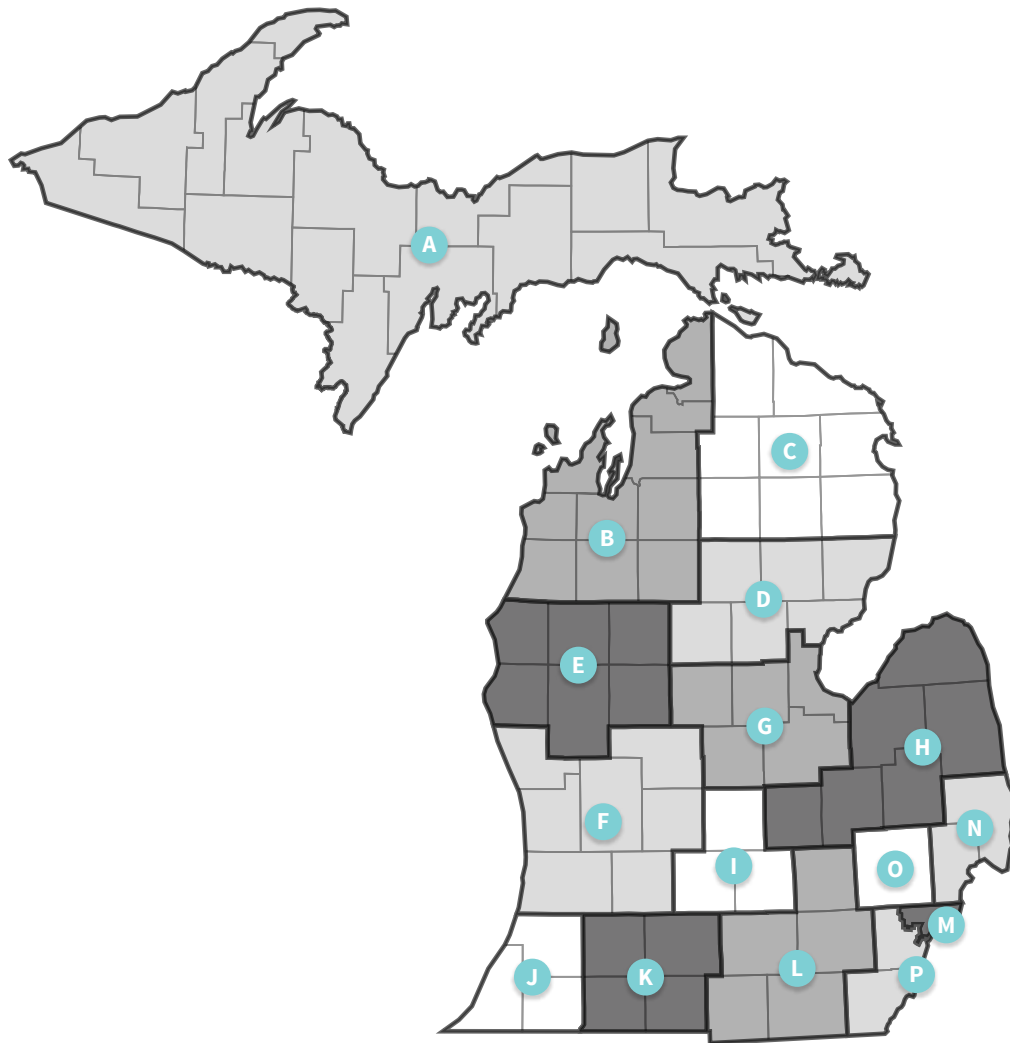


### CONNECTION

Providing training and networking opportunities for leaders and members



# MICHIGAN WORKS! NETWORK



The 16 **multi-faceted and diverse Michigan Works! organizations** cover the state with efficient, effective tools capable of **building jobs, leveraging careers and developing core talent**. Michigan Works! is building—and leading—strong networks that boost community, economic and talent development.

Michigan Works! organizations are proud partners of the [AmericanJobCenter](#) network.

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# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2023 Michigan Works! Association Impact Awards.

Each year, Michigan Works! agencies across the state provide transformational workforce resources to over 675,000 job seekers and 32,000 businesses. While those numbers are impressive in their own right, the real impact is felt across our communities when individuals like Elisha Hines Jones graduate from the Skills for Life program in Detroit and secure in-demand employment after serving as a caregiver to her mother during her final years. Or when employers like Able Medical Devices work to upskill employees like Jacob Patterson and invest in Registered Apprenticeships to offer a pathway to a rewarding career with little cost to him or his family.

These stories, and many more, are why we come together each year to celebrate our Impact Awards. This year, we honor individuals, businesses, stakeholders, and Michigan Works! frontline staff who represent the leaders across our state working to transform lives and contribute to a thriving economy where everyone can share in our collective success.

We offer sincere gratitude to policy leaders, lawmakers, community partners, and others in the private, nonprofit, and education sectors who have helped make today's achievements possible.

Congratulations to all of our award winners! Let's keep Michigan moving forward.  
Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Hundt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Hundt  
CEO  
Michigan Works! Association

# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR CORBIN



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN  
DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, I'd like to thank each of our dedicated Michigan Works! partners for your commitment to strengthening our workforce development system. Your daily work in providing both job seekers and employers with the resources they need to be successful is critical to helping us in our mission to expand economic opportunity and prosperity for all.

The Impact Awards are a great opportunity to honor those individuals and businesses whose contributions to strengthening our economy serve as a shining example for others. The entire state of Michigan is thankful for your commitment to helping Michiganders reach their full potential.

Congratulations to the Impact Awards honorees and everyone in the Michigan Works! network for all your hard work and continuous support. We are proud to have your team of talented workforce development professionals working in partnership with us every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan".

Susan Corbin  
Director  
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity



# CAPITAL AREA MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *high employee retention rates and intensive, successful hiring/training efforts.*

**AWARD WINNING EMPLOYER:**  
**MediLodge Group**



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The most difficult part of any business is retaining the talent you have, and this is especially true in healthcare, an industry that has been stretched dangerously thin over the past two and a half years. To combat this, MediLodge, a leading provider of long-term skilled care and short-term rehabilitation based in Michigan, has dedicated itself to growing talent from within. By partnering with the Michigan Works! System, MediLodge's more than 7,000 workers statewide are being trained to fit the organizational needs of the high-demand healthcare industry, leading to better outcomes for all of the workers in the organization.

The Capital Area Michigan Works! Business Services Team works closely with MediLodge to support its regional locations, as well as with the Going PRO Talent Fund. Through a Business Resource Network (BRN) pilot in one of MediLodge's Lansing locations, CAMW! BRN staff support MediLodge team members at risk of losing their jobs. BRN staff connects those struggling with resources to help them with "outside of work" challenges that can impact their employment success, such as a lack of child care, unstable housing or transportation issues. Following its pilot in Lansing, the team hopes to expand the program to other locations statewide.

As a result of the partnership between the Capital Area Michigan Works! team and MediLodge's Talent Acquisition Project Director, the company received Going PRO Talent Fund awards for 46 of its locations statewide, creating over 1,300 positions filled last program year. This year, MediLodge received awards for all 50 locations, including the addition of apprenticeships. Recognizing the importance of workforce development and retention, MediLodge has created a position to work with workforce development professionals and training institutions to develop more internal programs.



## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @CAMWJOBS, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

With its workforce partners, MediLodge created unique Unit Manager, Assistant Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing apprenticeship programs for locations statewide to grow talent from within for these challenging-to-fill roles. Additionally, MediLodge has a CNA apprenticeship program, with over 110 apprentices total being trained for high-demand positions. These healthcare apprenticeships can serve as a template for other skilled facilities that may recognize a need for these types of programs without realizing the potential of apprenticeships outside manufacturing. The team took the initiative to develop unit managers in nursing for several of their facilities in addition to the Certified Nurse Assistant training most skilled facilities have.

As it comes to outreach for new hires, MediLodge is actively participating in virtual and in-person career fairs throughout Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties, including Lansing Community College's Job and Internship Day and Ingham County Health and Human Services Job Fair along with Employer of the Day events at Capital Area Michigan Works!. Lastly, MediLodge's participation in virtual hiring events have offered many Michiganders and those beyond an easy opportunity to learn about and apply to MediLodge's positions throughout the state.

"MediLodge, its leadership and especially Heidi have been incredible partners in working to better their staff's development strategies, work with area partners and really think outside of the box in workforce development," said Joe Winkiel, CAMW!'s business services officer who works closely with MediLodge and its team. "All of their workforce efforts are to make sure their residents and our most vulnerable population – seniors – are best cared for, and their commitment truly shows.

*"Partnering with Capital Area Michigan Works! over the past few years has built upon the foundation laid by MediLodge in the areas of recruitment, hiring, training, and retention. CAMW! is a valued resource to MediLodge in providing programs exclusive to Michigan employers through its agency and establishing relationships with its affiliates to promote these efforts.*

*MediLodge has engaged in hiring events hosted by affiliates of CAMW! in the Lansing market and utilized marketing channels exclusively provided by CAMW!. This has enabled MediLodge to increase hiring for both clinical and non-clinical positions. MediLodge takes pride in training both newly hired employees and current employees to develop their skills both professionally and personally as they progress along their career paths. CAMW! and its alliance with Lansing Community College is an additional resource that offers many opportunities for training employees on both soft and hard skills.*

*CAMW! offers many programs to align with the MediLodge initiatives. The Going PRO Talent Fund not only supported the MediLodge hiring and training efforts, but stressed the importance of employee retention. Through the utilization of the BRN program in one of the Lansing area centers, MediLodge was able to stabilize retention with nine employees who participated in this program, which added to the success of Going PRO Talent Fund in 2022. CAMW! also assisted MediLodge in forming a strategic alliance with the USDOL enabling the creation of first-of-their-kind apprenticeships offered in long-term care, which will also add to the ongoing training and retention efforts."*

*- MediLodge Group*



# DETROIT EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS CORPORATION

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *outstanding career building opportunities and training programs.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *City of Detroit, General Services Department*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Elisha Hines Jones*

**PARTNER:** *Detroit Training Center*



The City of Detroit's General Services Department manages the City's vehicle fleet, forestry services, vacant lot maintenance, city-owned building maintenance, park and recreation center planning, design, improvements, and programming. A key role, particularly since the start of COVID-19, has been vehicle operators to keep city services moving. This role relies heavily on the recruitment of individuals who have the required vehicle operator's licenses. In addition to this, a major strategic focus of the City is the improvement of Detroit via removal of blight, cleanup of parks and alleyways and other beautification activities.

As the City of Detroit's unemployment rate continues to fall, and with new employers moving to Detroit, it is imperative that the city is able to continue to fulfill employer demand for a job-ready talent pipeline. This means preparing the pipeline across multiple industries at the same time, as well as planning ahead to allow those with lower levels of educational attainment to improve their career readiness.

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @DETROITATWORK AND @CITYOFDETROIT  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

Furthermore, it recognizes the fact that many Detroiters, while genuinely having a desire to improve their career prospects, do not have the ability to add training or education to a schedule that already includes their commitments, such as working full-time while raising a family. It was for these reasons that Detroit at Work partnered with the City of Detroit to launch the 'Skills for Life' program which allows Detroiters to work three days a week with the City and also study or train two days a week, all while earning \$15 an hour before transitioning out of the program and into full-time employment - either with the City or in the private sector.

Elisha Hines Jones is a 2022 graduate of the Skills for Life program. When her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2014, Elisha decided to stop work to become her caregiver. Her mother made Elisha promise that at some point in the future she would go back to full-time employment and make up the years she had missed. After her mother passed, Elisha found employment at the City of Detroit, initially working as part of the drive-up COVID-19 testing team at the State Fairgrounds, but later taking responsibility for distribution of PPE and testing supplies.

When the COVID testing program wound down, Elisha started working for the City's alley clean-up team as a laborer, and it was here that she first heard about Skills for Life, enrolling in the pilot program in 2021. Elisha started pursuing a CDL-A license, but when she found that challenging, the program allowed her to pivot to a CDL-B which she attained in October 2022 via the Detroit Training Center.

Since completing the program, Elisha now drives trucks full-time for the City of Detroit, a position that is in high demand with the City. She has also been promoted to Foreman, and has seen her pay increase from \$12/hr when starting with the City to \$18/hr since being promoted to Foreman and obtaining her CDL-B.

*"Detroit at Work has a great program. They have wraparound services and give you all of the tools that you need to succeed. If you need childcare, or if you're looking for a better position - any of the positions that you're looking for as far as career building in any type of industry - it's available to you and you have the opportunity to take that in your hands and go and get what you want. There's no reason for anyone in this city to say 'I can't get a job.'"*

*- Elisha Hines Jones, Foreman, City of Detroit – General Services Department*



# GREAT LAKES BAY MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *going above and beyond to fill open positions with skilled employees.*

**AWARD WINNING EMPLOYER:**  
*Bandit Industries, Inc.*



**Bandit**  
**INDUSTRIES, INC.**



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Bandit Industries is a valuable business partner to Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! Their willingness to share best practices has strengthened our knowledge of industry trends. Bandit is a manufacturer rich with vision, enthusiasm and employee pride. Many employees have ten or more years of service, with most management roles being filled from within. Because of increased growth and a large workforce, they convey the value of our partnership by inviting Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! to assist with recruitment events.

Their driving force goes beyond filling open positions with just anyone because they want to develop people in careers with the skills that will help employees enjoy their work. They have set a great example of being creative while spending time reaching out to job seekers in ways other companies have not explored.

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @GLBMIWORKS, AND @BANDITCHIPPERS  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

With the help of Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!, Bandit Industries has been involved in training their employees using Going PRO Talent Funds to increase the skills of their workforce. They also attend many job fairs, organize their own career fairs, and serve in other community events, including the MICareer-Quest Middle Michigan (MICQMM).

Being a part of the community helps to make connections with many people from neighboring communities. Bandit Industries exposes people of all working ages (16+) to the many local career opportunities that are available including students that attend Career Centers. Amid a hiring frenzy, successfully doubling its workforce in the past five years, Bandit continues to thrive through talent innovation.

Bandit has filled a wide variety of jobs in the past few years. At the end of 2020 Bandit Industries employed 443 employees. As of January 30, 2023, Bandit Industries has 750 active employees. Since 2020, Bandit has created 307 new jobs and project 140+ positions to fill in the near future. In addition to the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), employees can also earn bonuses based on how well the company is doing. Since 2020, Bandit has provided annual merit increases to qualifying employees, a cost of living increase in 2021, and skilled trade worker increases to all production employees in 2022. Fifty-nine employees gained education with Going PRO Talent Funds in 2022.

*“Michigan Works! is a fantastic community partner! They are always eager to assist us with our talent needs. We appreciate their help and support to place local workers into available jobs in the Central Michigan area. They really want to see people succeed, and they take an interest in local and community businesses. They are a tremendous resource, and I can’t say enough about them.”*

*- Jody Thompson, Human Resources Director, Bandit Industries, Inc.*



# GST MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *being an employer of choice, providing goodpaying opportunities in the community and dedication to ensuring their employees get the support they need to be successful.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *DYNA Sales and Service, LLC*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Zachary Strickland*



The year 1998 was a big year for two young Amish entrepreneurs. Twin brothers, Norman and Nathan Miller put their dreams and wallets to the test and built a brand-new shop with a brand-new name: DYNA Products. Today, that name has become known not only throughout the country, but throughout the world.

Several years prior to DYNA's inception, the brothers manufactured specialty log furniture processing equipment in their father's fence post business, mostly for their own use. However, it wasn't long until orders poured in. As DYNA's customer base developed, other markets were pursued, including portable log bandmills.

With time, the mid-size firewood processor market called for a quality, value-driven machine. In 2009, DYNA Products stepped in and met that need. Today, DYNA has grown to be a market leader in the industry with well over 200 processors manufactured. As this product line grew, DYNA sold the portable bandmill line and continued focusing on what they did best: building firewood processors.

The DYNA mission is to build a quality product for a fair price, backed by the best customer support, allowing the customer to reap greater profits in the firewood industry.

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @GSTMIWORKS, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

The Going PRO Talent Fund (GPTF) was introduced to DYNA in the fall of 2019 for FY20 and it was determined that Lean Manufacturing Training would be very helpful to their business. Productivity was rising and needed to continue with their purchase of \$1,000,000 in new manufacturing equipment. The training would allow them to expand their firewood processor line.

Since the GPTF 2020 was not able to be awarded, GST Michigan Works! assisted DYNA with incumbent worker training (IWT) to get them started on the Lean Manufacturing process. The start-up training was completed, but additional training was still needed. Applications for the GPTF 2021 and GPTF 2022 were submitted for the continuation of the Lean Manufacturing training. These awards were received, and the training enabled them to enhance the quality of their product, timeliness of production and adding additional employees to their current staff. With the successful completion of the Lean Manufacturing System classes in December 2022, they now have at least half of their employees trained in the Lean System!

In 2022, DYNA expanded their diversification efforts enabling them to add additional products and vendors and invested in a new BLM Tube Laser. Due to this expansion, a programmer was needed. This programmer training was offered to a select employee, Curtis Smith, utilizing an additional IWT award. Curtis was currently an operator who showed potential for training. Upon completion of the training, Curtis was promoted to Research & Design.

Recently, GST MI Works! asked DYNA to work with a young adult that was part of the Young Professionals Program. Zachary Strickland, a high school drop-out, had partnered with a tutor in the Caro GST Michigan Works! office and was working towards the goal of obtaining his GED. DYNA agreed to provide a work experience setting for him on a part-time basis as a General Laborer. During his 90-day work experience, he showed signs of being an asset to the company. After his work experience program was complete, DYNA offered him part-time employment in the same role, and six weeks later he was offered a full-time position with benefits. Zach is currently employed as a Welder and is very anxious to begin a training program that will assist him in obtaining his welding certification. **He says, "GST Michigan Works! pushed me to grow, learn and get better. I wouldn't have gotten this far had they not encouraged me."**

*"One of the greatest improvements I have seen within our workforce as a result of training has been to see the growth of confidence within our individual employees. They have gained in knowledge and understanding, applied those things to their daily work, and seen improvement take place in what they are doing themselves."*

*- Seth Lewis, Operations Manager, DYNA Sales and Service, LLC*



# MACOMB/ST. CLAIR MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *providing competitive wages in the community and training all new hires.*

**AWARD WINNING EMPLOYER:**  
***Niagara Bottling***



Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works'! relationship with Niagara Bottling started with “Project Oxygen” in January of 2022. At that time the company, originally from California, was considering building a bottling plant in Shelby Township Michigan. Through their local partnership with MEDC, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development and Macomb Community College, the Project Oxygen Proposal was submitted, offering the support of all their agencies and programs (BDP, Property Searches, Michigan New Jobs Training, Going PRO Talent Fund, On the Job Training, etc.). The company selected the Shelby Township site for the plant.

With the new company being from out of town, they sought out the help of the local Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! to assist in developing labor market information that would allow them to determine and set competitive wages in the area.

Once wages had been determined, Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! assisted in posting all available job positions and partnered with Niagara Bottling to put on a job fair at the Clinton Township Career Center.



**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MIWORKMSC AND @NIAGARABOTTLING,  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

The purpose of this event was to fill all open positions and train their new hires prior to their brand-new facility opening in March of 2023.

With the great marketing work of both the Niagara Bottling and Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! staff, the job fair was a success, attracting 1,008 candidates over the two-day event. Staff from both teams came together to direct traffic, check in applicants, and assist wherever needed. As the job fair has come to a close, the Niagara Bottling team has gone to work on reviewing all of the applicant interviews to determine the selected candidates and extend offers of employment.

Kristen Northcott, HR Manager of the Shelby Plant says, **“We were able to find multiple well-qualified candidates for our salaried roles: Production Supervisors and a Warehouse Supervisor. We were even able to find multiple great candidates for the higher-skilled QA Technician & Maintenance Tech roles we were having a difficult time finding candidates for. And of course, the majority of the positions we were looking to hire were for our Production Operators/Leads and Warehouse Associates, of which we were lucky enough to interview numerous wonderful candidates for those roles.”**

Offers of employment have been extended and accepted. Thirty people from the job fair were hired, supplying almost half of the 62 employees the Niagara facility plans to support. Niagara Bottling has kicked off the 2023 new year by beginning the training process for their new Shelby Township facility!

*“The ability of us to utilize the Michigan Works! Career Center in Clinton Township to host our career fair was pivotal to the success of our career fair! The team was amazing with helping us streamline the career fair and try to expedite the wait times for everyone who showed up for an interview to work at Niagara Bottling.*

*- Kristen Northcott, Shelby Plant HR Manager, Niagara Bottling*



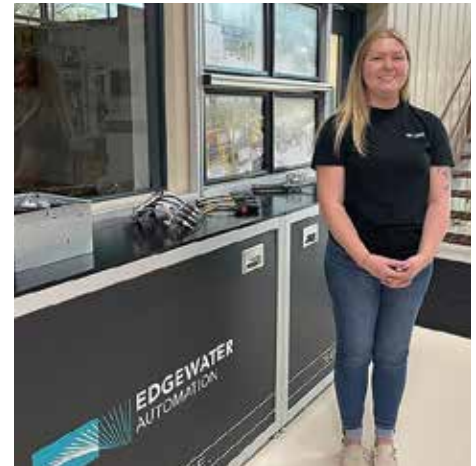
# MICHIGAN WORKS! BERRIEN, CASS, VAN BUREN

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *providing invaluable apprenticeship programs to employees and supporting female employees in a male-dominated industry.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Edgewater Automation*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Ashley Tanksley*



Edgewater Automation is an ISO 9001:2015–certified designer and builder of custom advanced automation equipment and manufactured structures and systems. Edgewater produces robotics, machine vision, motion control, automated test and data acquisition, and software control and management solutions for all manufacturing industries. With offices in Michigan and South Carolina, Edgewater Automation is well positioned to support its core customers in life sciences, automotive and commercial vehicles, consumer packaged goods (CPG), general manufacturing, electronics and battery manufacturing, and logistics.

Edgewater is a well-known company in the region who collaborates on automation projects with other manufacturers, helping to reach greater production efficiency. In fact, they have partnered with Lyons Industries, a previous Impact Award recipient, to help automate and improve their production capabilities.

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MICHIGANWORKS AND @EWAUTOMATION  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

Impact Award winner, Ashley Tanksley, is being recognized for her ongoing commitment to workforce development. Edgewater has been a committed partner for several years and currently has six apprentices enrolled with Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren. Ashley is a machine builder apprentice in her 3rd year and was recently nominated by her employer for the national apprenticeship awards. Ashley is an excellent representation of women in manufacturing, working in an industry that is traditionally male dominated.

**Ashley’s advice to those interested in an apprenticeship is to, “Take your time and learn as much as you can from your leads.”**

This is an outstanding example of the demand driven model because manufacturing is a core sector in Berrien, Cass, Van Buren and automation represents the future of that industry. This role is a high demand, high paying occupation and Ashley is now in her third year of a four-year apprenticeship. Edgewater has several apprentices currently in training and they leverage workforce dollars to help with tuition and supportive services. They also utilize the local community college LMC (Lake Michigan College) for training and education services, and they engage with workforce programs like the Going PRO Talent Fund.

*“Ashley is being recognized for her willingness to learn and grow in a male-dominated industry.”*

*- Edgewater Automation*



# MICHIGAN WORKS! NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *delivering outstanding customer service, advancing employees' skillsets and providing competitive wage increases.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *H.B. Carbide*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Aaron Thomas*



---

H.B. Carbide in Lewiston, Michigan, is a global leader in the blank tooling industry. Established in 1983 with the mission to deliver a superior customer experience with industry-leading custom and altered standard carbide blanks that provide consistency, reliability and advanced capabilities. They began selling to outside markets in 1990 and now supply carbide blanks and preforms to markets worldwide.

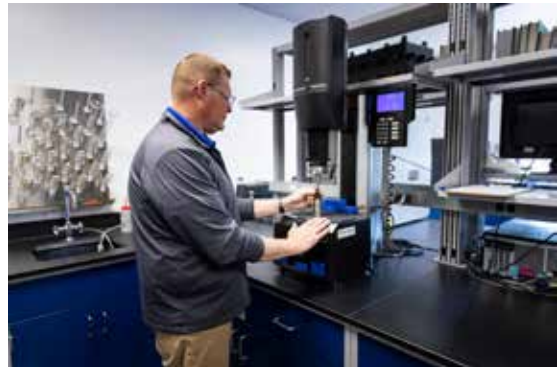
H.B. Carbide is a great representation of a strong workforce partner, working often with Michigan Works! to secure their training needs. In 2022, H.B. Carbide was challenged with hiring over 20 new employees, the majority of which had little to no experience in manufacturing. H.B. Carbide accepted this challenge, even though they knew it would require a significant amount of training time and cost. Working with Michigan Works!, they were able to get the financial support needed for the investment in training their new staff, which ultimately supported their ability to respond to customer demand and to deliver quality product in a timely manner.

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO [@WORKSMICHIGAN](#), USE [#MIWORKSIMPACT](#)

Michigan Works! helped H.B. Carbide secure funding to help pay for the employee training they needed to provide their employees with the needed skills to meet quality and time deadlines and remain competitive. When H.B.'s application for a Going PRO Talent Fund award was denied, Michigan Works! helped H.B. by offering training cost reimbursement via Incumbent Worker Training. This allowed for multiple employees to receive much-needed training to keep H.B. competitive. In addition, Michigan Works! assisted with paying a portion of the new hire wages during their training period via On-the-Job Training. This supported H.B.'s need to hire employees when the applicant pool had little to no experience.

**Jon Dreher, General Manager of H.B. Carbide says, “Michigan Works! helped H.B. Carbide with ways to advance employee’s skillsets at work and with ways to support their well-being outside of work.”**

Michigan Works! was able to help Preform Operator Aaron Thomas obtain the work boots and required clothing that he needed for his job at H.B. Carbide. Aaron has received a \$2.25 wage increase since starting employment at H.B. Carbide in February 2022.



*“Michigan Works! was very helpful and friendly. They helped me get the work boots and work clothes that I needed too.”*

*- Aaron Thomas, Preform Operator, H.B. Carbide*



# MICHIGAN WORKS! REGION 7B CONSORTIUM

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *partnering with Michigan Works! Region 7B to recruit, hire and train over 300 employees while building a new store in West Branch.*

**AWARD WINNING EMPLOYER:**  
**Meijer**

**PARTNER:** **Meceola Tech**



When Meijer announced that they were building a store in West Branch, not only was the community excited - staff at Michigan Works! Region 7B also eagerly anticipated the opportunity to work with Meijer to help facilitate their journey to opening day.

Before the store could open its doors, they would need to hire employees. The Michigan Works! Region 7B Ogemaw County Service Center began collaborating with the new store's director, Tracey Simon, to help with the hiring process. Together, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Meijer designed recruitment strategies to help ensure that by opening day, the store would be fully staffed.

As the hiring process continued, Meijer was able to utilize space in the Michigan Works! Region 7B Ogemaw County Service Center to hold meetings and conduct interviews as construction of the store moved closer to completion.

From groundbreaking to opening day, Michigan Works! Region 7B appreciated the role they were able to play in Meijer's success.

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MIWORKSR7B, @MEIJER, AND @MECEOLATECH  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

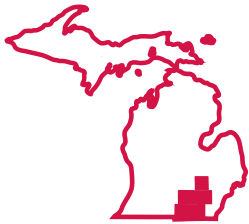
**“The opportunity to work with Meijer throughout the building and hiring process, and to see it through to the store’s completion, was one that we welcomed at Michigan Works! Region 7B,” said Executive Director Mark L. Berdan. “Michigan Works! Region 7B staff enjoyed working alongside Meijer staff. We are happy that we have built a relationship that will continue into the future.”**

Following completion of the store, Tracey Simon joined the Michigan Works! Region 7B Workforce Development Board, where she is a welcome addition to the board members that serve the six-county service area.

*“Coming to West Branch to open the Meijer store last spring was a dream for me. Once I got here and started using the Michigan Works! office, I was so thankful and impressed with all of the help and support they were able to provide. They have a beautiful facility and the most accommodating and helpful staff. Michigan Works! helped us have a great start with hiring, orientation and training support.”*

*- Tracey Simon, Director, West Branch Meijer*





# MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *being a family-owned business providing training to a newly discharged veteran and supporting the surrounding community, even during the pandemic.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Kuster's Dairy Foods*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Robert Jackson*



When a Business Services Coordinator went on a retention visit with Kuster's Dairy Foods, it was discussed that they were interested in a potential candidate, Robert Jackson. Robert completed the WIOA adult intake on October 27, 2022. He is a Veteran and was interested in CDL training. He had been seeking employment since before his separation from the service. Robert started working on an On-the-Job Training with Kuster's Dairy Foods on November 1, 2022 as a route delivery driver, making \$20 per hour, 40 hours per week. He has completed his OJT and has since received his CDL, and he feels like he has found his career home.

Nathan Van Dyke, Owner/President of Kuster's Dairy Foods says he had the pleasure of working with Kuster's Dairy Foods on an OJT for a Route Delivery Driver. "My first visit was a cold call that developed into a great working relationship," he says. Kuster's had the opportunity to hire a veteran that had just gotten out of the service. They are a family-owned business that started as an egg producer/distributor.



**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MICHWORKSSE, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

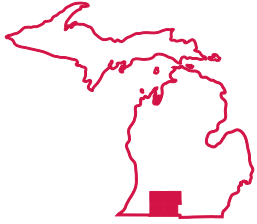
Kuster's has been family-owned for over 40 years. They have served independently owned family restaurants and ice cream shops in Southern Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Northwest Ohio. They deliver to over 450 locations while maintaining high standards. They are a growing company that recently purchased another site and continues to grow. They have been a strong community supporter, as indicated by their willingness to serve the community during Covid-19 by providing eggs to the local community. They have a reputation for being a great place to work, and they even offer an ice cream bar in their break room!

Because of this opportunity, Kuster's has gained comfort in working with Michigan Works! Southeast and feels it has gained a valuable partner.

*"On the Job training dollars enabled our company to hire and train a new employee during a season when we typically would not. By partnering with Michigan Works!, we were able to provide a job to a newly discharged veteran during a slow time for our business and have him fully trained and ready heading into our busy season."*

*- Nathan VanDyke, Owner, Kuster's Dairy Products*





# MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHWEST

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *work-based learning solutions including apprenticeship advancement programs and on-the-job training wage reimbursement opportunities.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Bleistahl*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Michael Coyle*



Michigan Works! Southwest has a long-standing relationship with Bleistahl, a manufacturer of innovative products for combustion engines in Battle Creek. This relationship began in 2013 and has led to Michigan Works! Southwest assisting the company with job postings, collecting resumes, talent recruitment, safety training, and job fairs. To assist in employee development and retention, the two organizations have extensively partnered to advance apprenticeships through an apprenticeship expansion grant. In addition, Bleistahl has partnered with Michigan Works! Southwest WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker services on multiple on-the-job training wage reimbursement opportunities for new employees. The Michigan Works! Southwest and Bleistahl partnership has provided many Battle Creek residents the opportunity to grow and thrive. Among those residents is Michael Coyle.

In May of 2022, Battle Creek's Graphic Packaging plant shut its doors for the last time, affecting over 200 employees. Michael was one of the employees who lost their job due to this closure. Michael found it challenging to return to work and was discouraged after many weeks of having various interviews, none of which resulted in an offer of employment. Through a Rapid Response event held onsite at Graphic Packaging, Michael was able to meet Michigan Works! Southwest staff and learn of the many resources available through Michigan Works!

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MIWORKSSW, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

Michael, determined to take control of his situation, decided to visit the Michigan Works! Service Center in Battle Creek where he met Brianna Ward, who became his Career Coach. He was enrolled in Michigan Works! Southwest WIOA Dislocated Worker services through the Workforce Development Institute in June 2022. To assist in building a strong foundation as he began his job search, Brianna suggested that Michael attend the interview and resume workshops provided by Employment Services. As a result of attending the workshops, Michael developed an updated resume and became aware of his numerous transferrable skills.

Through the support provided by Michigan Works! Southwest, Michael, who once was discouraged, now felt equipped and empowered to continue looking for employment. With his newfound motivation and confidence, Michael applied to Bleistahl, who invited him to interview. Within a few days of his interview, Bleistahl made a job offer, and Michael accepted.

**“I thought I would be successful in finding work on my own, but I wasn’t,” said Michael, “I’m glad I made the decision to work with Michigan Works!”**

Michael loves his job as a Compact Technician at Bleistahl and is grateful for the support he received from Michigan Works! Southwest which empowered him and helped to identify his transferrable skills to assist him in obtaining employment. “Working with Michael was easy,” said his Career Coach, Brianna Ward. “He was very engaged in job search and desired to make decisions about his career pathway that resulted in maximum benefit for him and his family. Michael’s openness to feedback from Michigan Works! Southwest staff and his willingness to explore and consider numerous open positions lead to him receiving an offer from Bleistahl.”

*“The strong reciprocal relationship between Bleistahl and Michigan Works! Southwest has allowed us to give opportunities to those in the Battle Creek area. More importantly, this partnership has led to the successful placement of talented individuals into our growing workforce and community. Bleistahl highly values our refined partnership with Michigan Works!”*

*- Sharon MacPherson, Human Resources Manager, Bleistahl*



# MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *providing outstanding care and support to seniors and their families while continuing to meet hiring needs during the pandemic.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Papa's Place Adult Day Center*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Julia Sheffer*



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Papa's Place is an all-inclusive senior care agency that provides multiple services to seniors and their families both in their homes and outside of their homes to ensure consistent, quality, and person-centered care. Papa's Place also provides home care services to individuals in their homes such as Family Respite services, End-of-Life care, Community Living support, Medication Management programs, transportation services, and much more.

Like many healthcare employers, Papa's Place Adult Day Center struggled to find qualified and dedicated employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They partnered with Michigan Works! West Central to enroll new employees in the CNA program at Meceola Tech, a postsecondary training provider in Big Rapids. This partnership allowed Papa's Place to meet their hiring needs as well as work to provide training for staff.

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @MIWORKSWESTCENT, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

While Julia Sheffer was in training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, her mother contracted COVID-19 and was hospitalized for three months. Julia moved back to help care for her mother, who eventually recovered. “After her release, my mom was living at my sister’s house in a tiny little room; she needed constant care. I slept in the basement for the summer to help,” Julia said. “It was a lot of instability over the past few years. I bounced around a lot in that timeframe. The couch surfing was definitely a challenge.”

In August 2022, Julia began working at Papa’s Place Adult Day Center in Reed City. This allowed her to live with and help care for her parents. Although she was able to start earning money, she didn’t have enough saved to further her education. At the same time, Michigan Works! West Central was helping Meceola Tech enroll students in its CNA program. Papa’s Place encouraged Julia to enroll. Michigan Works! West Central paid for Julia’s training through its MiLEAP and WIOA Out-of-School Youth programs, as well as provide support services with Wagner-Peyser funds.

Julia completed training and earned her CNA certification. Her hard work and caring personality also earned her a promotion to Care Manager. She says she feels confident in her career path moving forward!

*“It’s been very helpful to have Michigan Works! there. It definitely made me feel like I had resources available to me. They were very encouraging and very stabilizing for me.”*

*- Julia Sheffer, Certified Nursing Assistant,  
Papa’s Place Adult Day Center*





# NORTHWEST MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *making a positive impact in the community and providing outreach and critical support to at-risk populations.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Catholic Human Services*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Carrie Zeigler*



Since 1972, Catholic Human Services has been committed to strengthening northern Michigan, one person at a time. They've made a positive difference in the community by providing hope-filled, social, emotional, and spiritual support during some of the most challenging times in people's lives. They serve people of all ages, faiths, and incomes throughout 21 counties in northern Lower Michigan while providing counseling, substance use disorder treatment, prevention education, adoption, youth mentoring, and senior services to thousands of people each year. CHS partners with healthcare providers, employers, churches, and agencies to offer a wide range of best-practice services.

Carrie Zeigler has faced some big challenges in her life. She struggled with substance abuse and she and her five young children spent time in a domestic violence shelter before becoming homeless for several months. After working her way through those challenges Carrie faced a new one. In September of 2022, suddenly and without warning, she was let go from her job as a Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) at a local health clinic. Carrie was scared and upset. Her self-esteem had taken a huge hit, and her sobriety was threatened. But in her role as a PRC, she had referred clients to the Opioid Life Coaching program at Northwest Michigan Works!, so she turned to them for help.

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @NWMICHIGANWORKS AND @CATHOLICHS\_INC  
USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

Carrie Zeigler was hired by CHS in December 2022 as a community-based peer recovery coach. In her role, Carrie is expected to engage with patients in a range of settings including Substance Use Disorder (SUD) programs as well as a busy medical center. Carrie provides outreach to at-risk populations and supports and encourages individuals as they explore sobriety, identifies and matches clients with the appropriate treatment services, connects patients with recovery oriented supports, and helps clients identify and access needed resources and recovery supports.

Northwest Michigan Works! helped Carrie in many areas, including resume update and reconstruction, staff-assisted job searches, interviewing and public speaking assistance, assistance with FAFSA completion for 2023 CMU Fall enrollment, supplying gas cards and a professional wardrobe, deciding which position and organization to accept after being offered four jobs, and providing several advanced platform certifications to help Carrie gain prestige and career advancement after selecting the job of her choice.

*“When my position was eliminated in the organization I was working for, I reached out for help. I was left without a paycheck, five children to care for, and a fear of what the future held for me. My career path was still very new and I wasn’t sure where to turn. Northwest Michigan Works! initiated services, and the fear quickly dissipated. Northwest Michigan Works! and the opioid program has provided resources, funding, support, guidance, and education that I could not have found anywhere else. It has been an amazing service that I would now, again being employed on my career path, recommend to my clients any day. I have so much gratitude for this program and the impact that it had, and continues to have, on my ongoing recovery journey.”*

*- Carrie Zeigler, Peer Recovery Coach, Catholic Human Services*



# OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *launching on-the-job training and registered apprenticeship programs.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Barron Industries*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Dakota King*

**PARTNER:** *Oakland County Michigan Works! Waterford*



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Barron Industries is a family-owned, award-winning, global, full-service manufacturer of precision cast parts, machined components and complete assemblies for customers in the aerospace, defense, automotive, oil and gas, nuclear, medical and other industries. Barron is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It employs 70 people at multiple locations.

The company began working with Oakland County Michigan Works! in 2018, when it needed help filling several skilled trade positions and launched a successful on-the-job training program. To date, 17 people have been hired and trained through the OJT program for positions as casting technicians, mold technicians, finishing specialists and other roles.

In late 2021, Barron joined Oakland County's Business Resource Network, which provides employees with a success coach to help them overcome challenges that can act as barriers to sustainable, long-term employment. Last year, Barron further strengthened its partnership with Oakland County Michigan Works!, by launching a USDOL-Registered apprenticeship program for CNC Machinists.



## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @OAKLANDMIWORKS, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

Barron also has taken advantage of the State of Michigan's Going PRO Talent Fund. In FY22, they received a grant of \$68,599 to upskill and retrain 20 incumbent staff members in internal auditing, FANUC control systems, SolidWorks and other skills. They also hired and trained 12 new people using these funds. In FY23, Barron was awarded \$69,365 in Going PRO Talent Fund training funds. Last year, Barron was awarded a Regional Talent Innovation Grant in the amount of \$10,750 to train eight employees - CDL B certification, Six Sigma Green Belt certification and Professional Engineering licensure.

Dakota King joined Barron in 2021, as a participant in the company's on-the-job training program. He was interested in the skilled trades and started working in Barron's foundry operation. In 2022, Mr. King took on additional responsibilities in Barron's burn-out department, which included a wage increase. He has excelled in both roles, floating between the two as a valued, cross-trained utility employee.

**"Barron Industries has been an invaluable partner to Oakland County Michigan Works! Their team is incredibly responsive and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of their employees. Barron has collaborated on five different grants with us and we hope that number continues to grow in the years to come."**

**- Sarah Hug, Business Services Representative, Oakland County Michigan Works! Waterford**



*"Dakota has been a champion of Barron Industries – proud to be an employee, reliable and always first to volunteer to help out where and when needed."*

*- Scott Michael, Manager of Manufacturing Operations, Barron Industries*



# SEMCA MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *seeking out ideal employee candidates and providing smooth hiring processes.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Jackie Davis Insurance Agency*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Lowann Beasley*



Jackie Davis Insurance Agency is a woman-owned, minority-owned small business offering insurance and financial services. Jackie Davis Insurance Agency reached out to the SEMCA Michigan Works! Wayne American Job Center with a request for assistance in filling a customer service role at the agency. SEMCA took the opportunity to learn more about owner Jackie Davis' business, what the ideal candidate would be for the customer service role and discussed some of the ways they could assist with advertising for the role, being that Jackie was facing struggles with recruiting in today's labor market. SEMCA obtained a job description and got to work with making sure their program staff were immediately notified of the role.

A few days later, on the other side of the office, a Career Development Facilitator for WIOA who was instructing a resume workshop met a woman named Lowann Beasley. Lowann had been out of the workforce for quite a few years and was looking for a part-time job. She had relevant skills and experience for the role and had just been out of the workforce for a few years. She attended that resume workshop with hopes to step back in. Mellisa Fitzwilliams, a SEMCA Michigan Works! Career Coach, saw the matching potential and brought Lowann to the Business Services office where she introduced her to Melissa Skardoutos in the Business Services department.

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @SEMCAMICHWORKS, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT

It was quickly determined that Lowann was the perfect candidate for On the Job Training (OJT). WIOA worked with Lowann to update her resume and after that meeting, business services reached out to Jackie Davis and told her we had found the perfect candidate. Jackie Davis immediately called Lowann to schedule an interview and within days, SEMCA received the exciting news that Jackie agreed Lowann was the perfect candidate.

Both Jackie and Lowann have expressed their excitement and gratitude for the staff at SEMCA Michigan Works! and for the OJT Program.

***“They really wanted me to succeed in the employment search. They have been right there supporting me through every step and helped to meet my needs,” says Lowann.***

For over 10 years, Lowann had been rejected by many, many employers. She has a bachelor’s degree, but no one would hire her. She finally landed a job, only to then be laid off. Lowann’s work ethic is impeccable. She consistently demonstrates dependability, enthusiasm, and commitment for the job. Her warm, bubbly spirit shines every day. Lowann would not let car trouble keep her from getting to work on time every day, she found a way to make it happen. Jackie Davis Insurance Agency knew they had made an impact on her life when she got very emotional about being able to have some “me-time” to get her nails done. Simple things taken for granted by many, yet much appreciated by someone not able to do so for a long time. As a dedicated and determined single mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Lowann deserves all she has earned and more.

*“It’s in the name, YES Michigan Works! Not only did SEMCA Michigan Works! help our business, together, we helped a determined Michigan resident get back on track with employment. We are proud of our partnership with SEMCA and our new employee.”*

*- Jackie Davis-Betserai, Owner, Jackie Davis Insurance Agency*



# UPPER PENINSULA MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *utilizing the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant to connect with job seekers while setting employees up for success by offering a tuition-reimbursement program.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *Able Medical Devices*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Jacob Patterson*

**PARTNER:** *Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency*



As a newly Registered Apprenticeship Intermediary, UP Michigan Works! connected Jacob Patterson with the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant (SAE), in addition to other funding sources and programs, to get Jacob ready to win! Jacob is a young adult from the Upper Peninsula who sought to explore a career in manufacturing and needed assistance finding a work experience to increase his skills and marketability.

While in his junior year at Gwinn High School, Jacob enrolled in the Marquette-Alger Technical Middle College's CNC Machinist/Mechanical Engineering program and began taking college courses at Northern Michigan University. At the end of his junior year, Jacob was accepted into Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency's High School Internship Program at Able Medical Devices to take manufacturing as a career pathway for a "test drive." Likewise, Able used the opportunity to see if Jacob had the reliability and work ethic they look for in employees before committing to something long-term.

After a successful internship, Jacob was offered a spot in a Youth Registered Apprenticeship by Able and the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant. Jacob gained experience, learned more about his chosen field, and received crucial support from UP Michigan Works!

**TWEET YOUR CONGRATS TO @UPMICHIGANWORKS, USE #MIWORKSIMPACT**

In addition, Jacob leveraged other avenues to increase his marketability. The tuition-free program at the Middle College helped Jacob earn an associate degree in CNC Technology from NMU and immediately begin work as a CNC Machinist at Able, fabricating spinal cord implants and implant equipment. Jacob continues his postsecondary education and is now pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree from NMU.

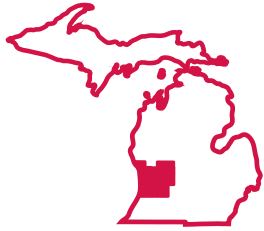
With the help of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) SAE Grant, the tuition reimbursement program offered by Able, and wraparound support provided by UPMW, Jacob will earn his bachelor's degree from NMU and transition from producing medical implants for the human body to designing these implants. The best part of Jacob's success story? He is on a path to a high-paying career in technology at very little cost to him or his family.

Jacob is grateful for Michigan's Early/Middle College System and LEO's State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant. Jacob is earning a valuable education for an in-demand career, Able is getting a well-trained employee, and the Upper Peninsula is keeping its young talent. It's a win-win-win!

*"Working with the fine folks at Michigan Works! has been nothing but a pleasure, and they have aided my learning process beyond what I had thought possible."*

*- Jacob Patterson, Able Medical Devices*





# WEST MICHIGAN WORKS!

**IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED FOR** *maximizing resources to develop superb working environments while supporting the diverse surrounding community.*

## **AWARD WINNERS**

**EMPLOYER:** *AC Sewing, Inc.*

**EMPLOYEE:** *Gul Aqa Ghaznawi*

**PARTNER:** *Bethany Christian Services*



AC Sewing, Inc. was struggling to find qualified and talented sewers and utilized resources provided by West Michigan Works! to address this issue. Since their partnership, AC Sewing has become an example of an employer who has maximized these resources to develop their work environment to support the diverse community West Michigan has to offer and fill a direct talent need within their industry.

Gul Aqa Ghaznawi, an Afghani refugee, owned a graphic design/embroidery business before he was forced to leave his home county in November 2021. He was a talented sewer, working for the U.S. military as an embroiderer, crafting military uniform badges. Soon after his arrival in Michigan, Gul Aqa was connected to the refugee resettlement program at Bethany Christian Services who referred him to West Michigan Works!.

Gul Aqa made the most of the resources available to him. Through West Michigan Works! Gul Aqa qualified for Partnership Accountability Training and Hope (PATH) program. He qualified for cash assistance, which required him to participate in job search and job readiness activities or employment services. He worked with Christine Ingabire, a PATH career coach at WMW! Christine's role was to determine his strengths, and what barriers to employment WMW! and our partners could address.

## TWEET YOUR CONGRATS USING #MIWORKSIMPACT

“His first day with Michigan Works was in early January 2022 for PATH orientation and intake,” said Christine. “He told me that his hope was to open his own business again! He was really confident and excited sharing this.” At the same time Gul Aqa started working with Christine, he started taking English-as-a-second-language classes. These classes qualified as a barrier removal activity in the PATH program before he could begin work readiness activities or seek employment. Through PATH, Christine assisted him with a Wave card for public transportation to get to and from ESL class, PATH program appointments, and eventually drivers training and his job.

After he completed his ESL classes and drivers training in March 2022, Bethany Christian Services connected Gul Aqa with Jim Valkema, owner and president of AC Sewing. Jim hired Gul Aqa using subsidized employment. This meant WMW! Business Solutions was able to pay Gul Aqa’s wages while he participated in on-the-job training. Gul Aqa received assistance with workplace essentials, interpreter services and a vehicle purchase. Within months he received his first raise based on performance and completed his first six months of employment with advanced ratings.

West Michigan Works! recognizes AC Sewing for maximizing available resources from partners like Bethany Christian Services to develop their workforce while supporting West Michigan’s diverse immigrant community. AC Sewing was able to successfully hire and retain a candidate they would not have considered otherwise. And we celebrate the persistence and strong work ethic that enabled Gul Aqa Ghaznawi to create a new life for himself and his family.

*“Because of this grant, we opened ourselves to employ someone who we would not have considered otherwise. We have gained an excellent member for our team! Thank you!”*

*- Jim Valkema, Owner & President, AC Sewing, Inc.*

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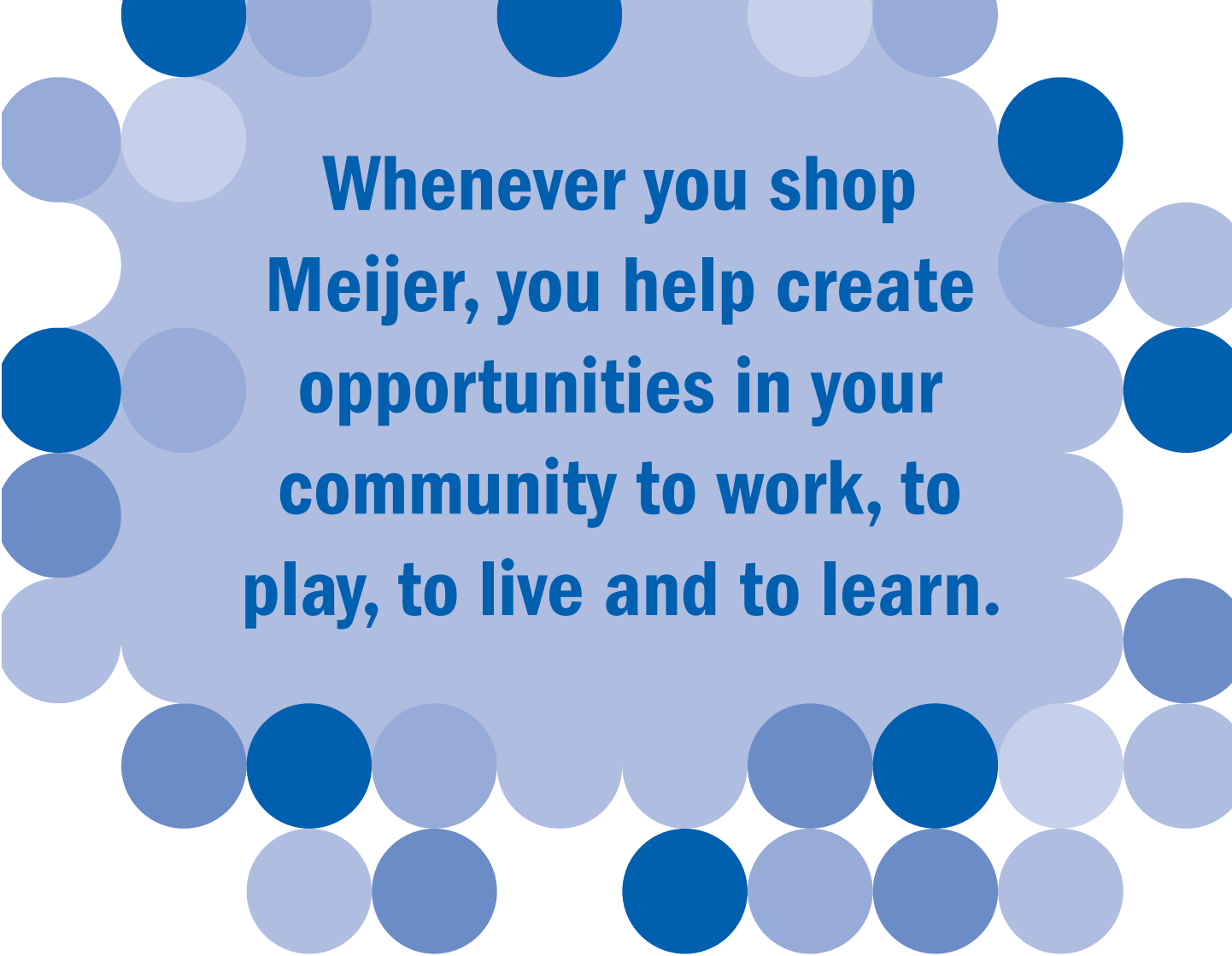


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“By partnering with Michigan Works! [Southeast], we were able to provide a job to a newly discharged veteran!”

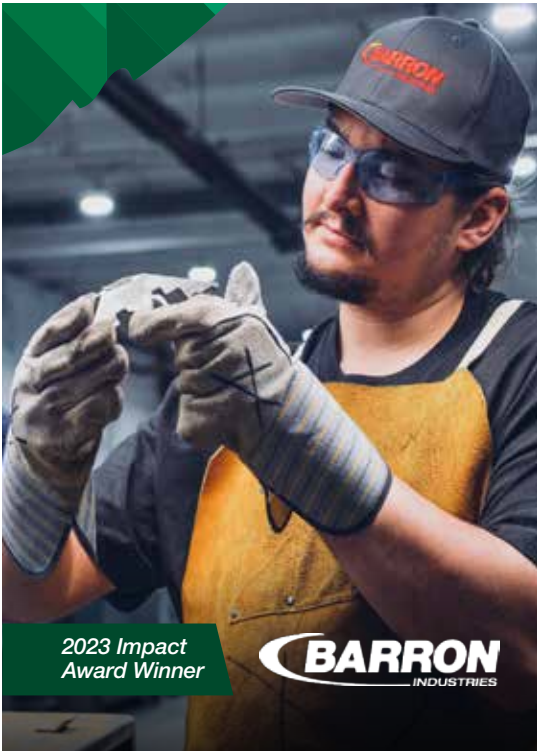
- Nathan VanDyke,  
Owner, Kuster's Dairy Products

# CONGRATULATIONS!

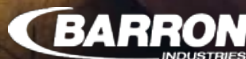
Michigan Works! West Central congratulates Julia Sheffer on her 2023 Impact Award! We also would like to recognize Papa's Place Adult Day Center and Meceola Tech for their role in helping Julia earn her CNA credential and advancing her career in the healthcare industry!



Michigan Works! West Central is funded by State and Federal funds and governed by local Workforce Development Boards and Local Elected Officials. More details available on the Legal Disclaimer page at [MWWC.org/legal-disclaimer](http://MWWC.org/legal-disclaimer). Michigan Works! West Central is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Michigan Relay Service: 711 | Supported by the State of Michigan.



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Award-winning Barron Industries began working with Oakland County Michigan Works! in 2018, with the launch of an innovative on-the-job training program. In 2021, employee Dakota King seized the opportunity to join the company and launch a career in the skilled trades. Today, he is a valued, cross-trained employee.

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- USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Program
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# MICHIGAN WORKS! Southwest

Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties

Michigan Works! Southwest extends our congratulations to **Michael Coyle** on his accomplishments and **Bleistahl** for their strong partnership with Michigan Works! Southwest and on-the-job training.



2022 ANNUAL  
REPORT



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SEMCA Michigan Works! extends its heartfelt congratulations to **Lowann Beasley** for her outstanding achievement in launching a successful and rewarding career. We also want to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the **Jackie Davis Insurance Agency** in providing Lowann with the training opportunity that has paved the way for her success.

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Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! is an Equal Opportunity/Employer Program. Auxiliary aide services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Michigan Relay Services dial 711. Supported by the State of Michigan. A proud partner of the American Job Center Network.





West  
**MICHIGAN  
WORKS!**

## Congratulations!

“Gul has been the real winner throughout this collaboration. I cannot begin to describe the challenges he faced as a refugee. However, because of the programs offered at West Michigan Works! he was able to find a long-term career and life-long friends.”

- Jim Valkema  
Owner & President  
AC Sewing, Inc.

**2023 Impact Award winners:**

**AC/SEWING, INC**

Gul Aqa  
Ghaznawi

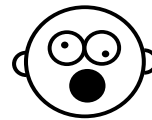
**Bethany**  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES



Through strategic investments and programming, the Michigan Justice Fund works to advance equity & justice through criminal legal reform across Michigan.

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**Michigan Justice Fund** | An Initiative of the Community Foundation



## THE STRATEGY SESSION

The project was crucial. In fact, the corndog  
NOUN  
could not have been higher. The team gathered to  
plot a cranberry muffin, set maracas  
NOUN PLURAL NOUN  
and identify inner tubes. One thing was  
PLURAL NOUN  
certain: barking wasn't an option. “We need  
VERB ENDING IN -ING  
to gag the elected officials,” the chief  
VERB  
Empress said. “We should definitely set up  
JOB TITLE  
a Facebook nurse and gobble gobble  
NOUN BIRD SOUND  
a lot,” the communications director said.

“Tarnation! We can't forget the sticky  
EXCLAMATION ADJECTIVE  
media,” he added. “Good, good,” the team leader said.

“Whatever happens, as long as we're smelly and  
ADJECTIVE  
execute the clown, we'll be spicy.”  
NOUN ADJECTIVE

Your communications and public relations  
SERVICE  
needs are too important to leave to chance.  
ADJECTIVE NOUN

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# **STRONGER TOGETHER**



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— Partnership • Trust • Collaboration —



September 10-12, 2023 • Detroit [www.michiganworks.org/the-event](http://www.michiganworks.org/the-event)

# About Michigan Works! Association

We envision a Michigan where collaborative workforce development is an integral part of our state's economic prosperity. The Michigan Works! Association will execute this vision by serving as the leading voice in workforce development advocacy, policy, education, and investments.

## MEMBERS

Capital Area Michigan Works!  
Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation  
Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!  
GST Michigan Works!  
Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!  
Michigan Works! Berrien Cass Van Buren, powered by Kinexus  
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium  
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Michigan Works! Southeast  
Michigan Works! Southwest  
Michigan Works! West Central  
Northwest Michigan Works!  
Oakland County Michigan Works!  
SEMCA Michigan Works!  
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!  
West Michigan Works!

## Michigan Works! Association

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