



Contact: Malorie Kersten
Public Relations Coordinator
p: (517) 371-1100 x 208
e: kerstenm@michiganworks.org

For Immediate Release

Michigan Works! Association Celebrates Employment Successes of Michigan Citizens

LANSING, Mich. (January 28, 2009) – The Michigan Works! Association will celebrate the success of Michigan workers and the Michigan Works! System at the 2009 Michigan Works! Association Alumni Celebration, on **Tuesday, February 3, 2009**, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** in the **Anderson House Office Building, Mackinac Room**, in Lansing, Mich.

The Alumni Celebration is an annual event and opportunity for state leaders to recognize successful participants from the Michigan Works! System whose hard work and persistence, along with support from Michigan Works!, led to gainful employment.

Businesses who have made invaluable contributions and commitments will also be recognized. Honorees receive awards from their district legislators, and share individual stories of success and triumph.

The celebration features an introduction by Governor Jennifer Granholm, via DVD, and opening remarks by Andy Levin, deputy director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, William Stanek, chairperson of the board of directors of Michigan Works! Association and Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer of Michigan Works! Association.

A reception follows the ceremony at the Radisson Hotel Lansing from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

“We hear stories every day about plant closings, layoffs, lack of opportunity for open positions in a competitive and global economy and other negative feedback about the stark reality of this economic situation. This celebration showcases twenty-five people that can tell you they lived through these situations, and with support from Michigan Works!, made a decision to create their own destiny and moved their life in a different direction,” said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer of Michigan Works! Association.

Michigan Works! Association is recognized nationally as the largest and most progressive workforce development association in the country. The Association's members are the Workforce Development Boards, Local Elected Officials, and Michigan Works! Agency Directors from all of Michigan's twenty-five workforce areas.

Michigan Works! Association was established in 1987 to foster high-quality employment and training programs serving employers and workers by providing support activities and a forum for information exchange for Michigan's workforce development system. That system has been recognized by the National Alliance of Business as the most innovative in the country.

For more information, visit <http://www.michiganworks.org>, or call 517-371-1100.

###