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For Immediate Release

Worker Training is First Step in Recovery: 2010 Alumni Celebration Features Employment Successes from across Michigan

The Alumni Celebration features twenty-five outstanding individuals who, with support from Michigan Works!, were able to overcome significant barriers to seek education and retraining resources and secure gainful employment in high demand occupations.

LANSING, Mich. (January 20, 2010) – The Michigan Works! Association will celebrate employment success of Michigan workers at the 2010 Michigan Works! Association Alumni Celebration, held **Tuesday, January 26**, 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 partnered with the Michigan Works! System and 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 United States Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Governor Jennifer Granholm, both via DVD. Additional opening remarks will be provided by Andy Levin, deputy director, Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, William Stanek, chairperson, Michigan Works! Association Board of Directors and Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer, Michigan Works! Association.

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

“This Celebration is the premier event of the Michigan Works! System and truly exemplifies the importance of continuing education and retraining,” said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer of Michigan Works! Association. “Michigan Works! is committed to strengthening workforce and economic development in Michigan.”

Established in 1987, the Michigan Works! Association fosters 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.

For more information, visit www.michiganworks.org, or call 517-371-1100.

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