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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Michigan Works! Association Announces 2011 Challenge of Excellence Award Winners

Awards recognize dedication and leadership of partners and individuals to the Michigan Works! System

LANSING, Mich. (September 29, 2011) - Michigan Works! Association today announced the winners of the 2011 Challenge of Excellence Awards. The awards recognize Michigan Works! partners and individuals that exemplify dedication and leadership to the Michigan Works! System.

"These award winners were chosen for their invaluable contributions to the Michigan Works! System," said Michigan Works! Association CEO Luann Dunsford. "We were honored to feature each award winner and the important work they do."

Award winners were nominated by Michigan Works! Agencies and selected by the Michigan Works! Association Board of Directors. Winners were announced at 2011 Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, held September 11-13:

Board of Excellence Award

Winner: South Central Michigan Works! Workforce Development Board
Honors a Michigan Works! Agency Workforce Development Board that exemplifies leadership and teamwork within the Michigan Works! System

Ralph Loeschner Outstanding Service Award

Winner: Christine Quinn, President, South Central Michigan Works!
Recognizes an individual who was an outstanding promoter of the Michigan Works! System in the previous year. Named in honor of the late Ralph Loeschner, an inspiring and widely-respected Michigan Works! advocate

Impact Award

Winner: Beverly Siler, Detroit One-Stop Service Center-East
Celebrates a Michigan Works! Agency frontline staff member who, through dedication and outstanding contributions to workforce development, personifies the Michigan Works! mission

Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Lisa Wiley Parker, Recruiter Uncensored (Lansing)
Pays tribute to an individual from the private sector who is dedicated to the growth and promotion of the Michigan Works! System

Legislator of the Year

Winner: Senator Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale)
Recognizes a state legislator who is steadfast in their support of the Michigan Works! System

Employer of the Year (two 2011 winners)

Winner: Kathy Ragla, Kellogg Company (Battle Creek)
Winner: Rick Aubry and Bruce Fandel, MAHLE Engine Components (St. Johns)
Highlights a private sector employer that, in partnership with a Michigan Works! Agency, goes beyond the call of duty, continuously contributes to local job-placement and/or promotes education to maintain a skilled workforce

Michigan Works! Association provides leadership and services, and promotes quality and excellence for the advancement of Michigan's Workforce Development System, its customers and professionals. For more information, visit www.michiganworks.org.

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