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**For Immediate Release**

## **Michigan Works! Association Names New Chief Executive Officer**

LANSING, Mich. (October 12, 2007) – Michigan Works! Association announced today the recent appointment of Luann Dunsford as chief executive officer. Dunsford replaces Linda Kinney Merrill, who retired from the Association in early October 2007.

“We are excited to have Luann’s talent and expertise as a leader, and dedication to the Association. She has been with us for many years and we look forward to her continued contributions,” said Douglas Stites, chief executive officer of Capital Area Michigan Works!

In her new position, Dunsford is responsible for overall policy, fiscal, personnel and programmatic management of the Association, and in conjunction with the Board, will develop and manage the implementation of public policy agenda and the Association’s funding strategy. She will also serve as liaison between Association membership and state and local government

With more than 20 years of experience, Dunsford accepted the position as chief executive officer from her previous position as chief operating officer for Michigan Works! Association. With an extensive background in administration, public accounting and finance, Dunsford holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from Michigan State University.

Dunsford is an active volunteer in her local community and a member of various professional organizations, including the Michigan Society of Association Executives, IRS Small Business Industry Liaison Council and the Michigan Shared Youth Vision Partnership.

“I look forward to this expanded leadership role and to moving forward in this position,” said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer at Michigan Works! Association. “The Association has a long history of promoting quality within Michigan’s workforce development system, and I feel privileged to continue this important mission.”

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 25 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.

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The Michigan Works! Association is an equal opportunity employer/trainer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.