

For Immediate Release:  
September 28, 2010

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## Michigan Works! Association Announces 2010 Challenge of Excellence Award Winners

*Honorees from Michigan Works! in Berrien Cass and Van Buren Counties, South Central Michigan,  
Northwest Michigan and Eastern Upper Peninsula*

LANSING, Mich.— Michigan Works! Association selected five 2010 recipients of the Association’s Challenge of Excellence Awards. The awards were presented at the Michigan Works! for People Annual Conference, Sept. 19-21 in Traverse City, Mich.

“We were thrilled to honor our outstanding leaders, partners and volunteers,” said Michigan Works! Association CEO Luann Dunsford. “The award celebrations were a highlight of our annual conference.”

The 2010 award winners, recognized for their contributions to the Michigan Works! System, are:

**Board of Excellence Award – Michigan Works! Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Workforce Development Board.** The award honors a Workforce Development Board that exemplifies leadership and teamwork within the Michigan Works! System. The board was selected for demonstrating the following qualities: locally responsive, demand driven, strategic, innovative and collaborative. Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Workforce Development Board was nominated by Michigan Works! Berrien-Cass-Van Buren. [Photo>](#)

**Ralph Loeschner Outstanding Service Award – Arnie Redsicker, vice chairperson, Michigan Works! Berrien-Cass-Van Buren Workforce Development Board.** This award was named in honor of the late Ralph Loeschner—an inspiring and widely respected Michigan Works! advocate. Loeschner passed away in 2004, leaving a legacy of excellence and leadership. The award recognizes an individual who, in the previous year, has been an outstanding promoter of the Michigan Works! System. Redsicker was nominated by Michigan Works! Berrien-Cass-Van Buren. [Photo>](#)

**Impact Award – Sharron Elliott, employment advisor, South Central Michigan Works!.** The Impact Award celebrates a Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) frontline staff member who, through dedication and outstanding contributions to workforce development, personifies the Michigan Works! mission. The award opened in 2009 with 25 recipients, one from each MWA. Moving forward, only one individual will receive the Impact Award annually. Elliott was nominated by South Central Michigan Works!. [Photo>](#)

**Volunteer of the Year – David R. Adams, chairperson, Northwest Michigan Workforce Development Board.** This award pays tribute to an individual from the private sector who is dedicated to the growth and promotion of Michigan Works!. Adams was nominated by Northwest Michigan Council of Governments Michigan Works!. [Photo>](#)

**Employer of the Year – David Goudreau, president, Northern Wings Repair, Inc.** This award highlights a private sector employer that, in partnership with a Michigan Works! Agency, goes beyond the call of duty by continuously contributing to local job-placement and/or promoting education to maintain a skilled workforce. Goudreau was nominated by Eastern Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!. [Photo>](#)

Award recipients were recognized during the conference general sessions. This year's conference theme, "Driving Workforce Development," promoted the tools and strategies workforce advocates need to return the state to prosperity. [Photos>](#)

**About Michigan Works! Association**

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 [michiganworks.org](http://michiganworks.org).

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