

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwest Michigan Works! partners with Manistee County Sheriff's Office to Register first Police Clerk Apprenticeship in the Region

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI — *Northwest Michigan Works!*, in partnership with the Manistee County Sheriff's Office, has officially launched the region's first U.S. Department of Labor-registered **Police Clerk Apprenticeship**, marking a major milestone for workforce development and professional training in Northwest Lower Michigan.

The innovative apprenticeship provides participants with a structured, hands-on pathway into a critical public safety career. Apprentices will complete **2,000 hours of paid, on-the-job training**, gaining real-world experience under the mentorship of seasoned law enforcement professionals while developing the administrative and technical skills essential to modern policing.

In addition to workplace learning, apprentices will complete **225 hours of related instruction** through **West Shore Community College**, along with specialized coursework in **Law Enforcement Records Management**. Together, these components ensure

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Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! are supported by the State of Michigan and are proud partners of the American Job Center Network. Projects may be funded with the authorized and appropriate use of federal funds. Contact Networks Northwest for additional information. Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711.

participants receive a well-rounded education that aligns with industry standards and supports long-term career success.

"Through the support of Northwest Michigan Works! and their Apprenticeship Program, I've been able to expand my skills, further my education, and continue building a meaningful career in public service," says Taylor Sexton, Police Clerk apprentice.

"The Manistee County Sheriff's office is pleased to continue its partnership with the Northwest Michigan Works! Apprenticeship Services team with this brand new, innovative police clerk occupation," commented Brian Gutowski, Manistee County Sheriff.

"Non-traditional registered apprenticeship programs help employers grow their talent while opening new doors for motivated apprentices like Taylor to build successful careers. We are grateful to partner with the Manistee County Sheriff's Office, a true leader in innovation and a valued Registered Apprenticeship collaborator," stated Evelyn Szpliet, Northwest Michigan Works! Regional Director of Apprenticeship Services.

Registered apprenticeships are certified through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor and are a proven training method for employers to build a talent pipeline of highly skilled, educated employees. Northwest Michigan Works! provides technical assistance and administrative support for registered apprenticeships, including development, implementation and program management. For more information about Registered Apprenticeships through Northwest Michigan Works!, visit

nwm.org/apprenticeships

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dana O'Dell at dana.odell@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. Or phone (231) 929-5075. Check our online Media Room at networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10-county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works!, APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC), various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business, and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, networksnorthwest.org. Networks Northwest's member counties are Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

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