



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Building a Welding Workforce Forum Offered

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, Traverse City

NORTHWEST LOWER MI — Northwest Michigan Works! is hosting a forum February 22 specifically for employers of welders and business owners in the welding industry in northwest lower Michigan.

Peer companies and educational partners will meet to share information on qualifications and the future of the welding field, with the goal of growing and developing a trained workforce.

Michigan Works! managers will use the information gathered at the meeting to design an accelerated training program. That program will include recruiting trainees with the basic job skills, potential to learn, and abilities to become successful welders.

Scholarships will also be available for eligible trainees, and employers will have easy access to a new pool of qualified candidates to help businesses grow.

Through its re-designed delivery model, Northwest Michigan Works! is better serving employer needs with these types of industry-specific events. A key approach is customized training to develop a labor supply that can meet demands for particular skills, number of hires, and timeline for hiring.

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This event is open to all business owners and employers in the welding industry in northwest lower Michigan. For the location and time of the forum and to register, please call Anna Mouser at (231) 922-6506.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: <http://nwm.org/media.asp>

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, founded in 1973, facilitates and manages services and programs for ten counties in the region. These programs include Regional Planning and Community Development; Northwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Northwest Michigan Works, Workforce Development Board, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Region 2, Hospitality Skills Alliance, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center program, KAL-TEC, Healthcare Skills Alliance of Northwest Michigan, and the Regional Repository for US Census data.

Some services of NWMCOG are in direct support of the counties, some are independent services provided to the public and businesses at large. NWMCOG is able to leverage several collaborative partnerships to extend limited resources and provide economies of scale for projects that operate on a regional basis. NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.