

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2017

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Local Businesses Receive Statewide Recognition for Talent Development

TRAVERSE CITY, MI—MR Products in Copemish and Sleeping Bear Apiaries in Beulah have received Michigan Works! Association Impact Awards for their leadership in providing local employment and training opportunities. Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! nominated the businesses for the awards after each of them used a variety of programs offered through Michigan Works! to hire and train employees.

MR Products is a family-owned manufacturer of plastic chain. Michigan Works! assisted the company with Skilled Trades Training Fund applications, employee wellness development projects, and On-the-Job Training contracts. The training included employee Carol Mathias who was also recognized at the Impact Awards event.

“Since 2009, we have more than doubled the number of employees here in Copemish, and we consider Michigan Works! to be an invaluable partner contributing to our future growth,” said MR Products President, Maree Mulvoy.

Sleeping Bear Apiaries is the parent company of St. Ambrose Cellars and Sleeping Bear Farms. Michigan Works! helped the company develop a Winemaker Apprentice program. The company also received a Skilled Trades Training Fund grant, and training assistance for employees including Susan Kile who was recognized along with the company.

“The support has provided the increased workforce and skill set needed to meet the demand of our continued growth,” said Sleeping Bear owner, Kirk Jones. “We are forever grateful for all of the support we have received from Northwest Michigan Works!.”

(MORE)

The awards were presented during a special recognition event February 22 in Lansing which was attended by several of the region's state legislators.

“From my perspective, these are the best kinds of economic development stories,” said Michigan Senator Darwin Booher (R-Evart). “I am sincerely proud to honor the achievements of all these individuals.”

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. 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, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, 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 web site, networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.