

News Release
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Media Contact: Dan Boss
Communication Specialist
231-929-5047
dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org

New Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program Launches in Kalkaska

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI— Northwest Michigan's first Medical Assistant apprenticeship program is underway in Kalkaska. The U.S. Department of Labor registered Medical Assistant apprenticeship is being offered by Northwest Michigan Works! in partnership with Kalkaska Memorial Health Center.

The innovative program includes paid on the job learning and online related technical instruction along with guidance from professional mentors. Once complete, the apprentices will receive a National Medical Assistant Journeyworker Credential, a Medical Assistant Career Diploma through Penn Foster, and be prepared to sit for the State Medical Assistant Certification through American Medical Technologists. There are five apprentices currently enrolled in the program at Kalkaska.

"We are very pleased to launch this career opportunity in our community," said Christy Chowhan, Clinical Director, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center. "It is a well-designed competency-based training plan and incorporates an online learning platform that is easily accessed by our apprentices. This program is designed to prepare the apprentices for certification and helps us fill immediate workforce gaps."

Registered apprenticeships are developed 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. Registered apprenticeships are offered in over 1300 occupations and can be designed for any size or type of business. Northwest Michigan Works! provides technical assistance and administrative support for registered apprenticeships, including development and implementation guidance. More information about registered apprenticeships is available at nwm.org/apprenticeships.

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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 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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PO Box 506 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 • Phone (231) 929-5000 • Fax (231) 929-5012 networksnorthwest.org

Northwest Michigan Works! is supported by the State of Michigan and is a proud partner of the American Job Center Network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711. Equal opportunity employer/program. This project may have been funded with federal funds. Visit the Networks Northwest website for more information at nwm.org/financial.