

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Welding Training Available to Help Workers Prepare for High-Demand Jobs Orientation Session Thursday, April 26, 2012 Petoskey Michigan Works! Service Center

NORTHWEST, MI—A new "just-in-time" training program organized by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) will give people an opportunity to receive free training in GMAW (MIG) welding, a technical skill in high demand by local employers. The training is being provided by North Central Michigan College (NCMC) and Kirtland Community College. A mandatory orientation session for the training will be held Thursday, April 26, at 2:00 pm at the Petoskey Michigan Works! Service Center, 2225 Summit Park Drive.

The training has a value of more than six thousand dollars and will be provided for eight individuals who are eligible for Michigan Works! funding (available through federal workforce training funds). Successful graduates of the program will receive a certificate of completion from NCMC and will be tested for an American Welding Society Certification in vertical MIG (an industry-recognized standard).

The training will be held May 21 through June 30. The first week of training will take place at NCMC. The rest of the training will be held in the Mobile Welding Lab, at a location most suitable to enrolled students.

Call the Petoskey Michigan Works Service Center at 231-347-5150 by Tuesday, April 24 to register for the orientation session.

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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 10 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.