

## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# PAID WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUES FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI – A program providing meaningful work experience and income for young adults is continuing in Northwest Lower Michigan. Northwest Michigan Works! has received a grant for the Young Professionals program. The program provides adolescent adults with job skills, earned income, and career exploration and preparation activities.

This summer, Northwest Michigan Works! is partnering with the Charlevoix-Emmet (Char-Em) ISD, Northwest Education Services, and Wexford-Missaukee ISD to offer the Young Professionals program. Students will learn skills related to welding training. Wexford-Missaukee ISD will also provide firefighter training.

“This grant, in partnership with Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works!, opens incredible opportunities for our high school students. By earning a competitive wage while expanding their skills beyond the classroom, they are not only building their resumes but also enhancing their employability and future earning potential. We are

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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.

thrilled to provide this pathway for growth and success,” said Jim Rummer, Director of Career and Technical Education at the Char-Em ISD.

“The Young Professionals program provides students and young adults with an invaluable opportunity to gain advanced welding skills, earn recognized industry credentials, and receive compensation while exploring meaningful career pathways. This hands-on training not only equips them with valuable technical abilities and boosts their confidence through real-world experience, but also serves as a vital link in strengthening our community and bolstering Michigan's workforce by cultivating a pipeline of skilled labor to meet the needs of our local and state economies,” said Patrick Lamb, Assistant Superintendent of Career and Technical Education at Northwest Education Services.

The Young Professionals initiative is designed to reduce youth unemployment and place young adults on a path to achieve lifelong economic self-sufficiency. The initiative supports young adults who are struggling to obtain employment by exposing them to multiple career and educational opportunities, such as entering a Registered Apprenticeship program, earning a college degree or certificate, and obtaining sustainable employment.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dana O'Dell at [dana.odell@networksnorthwest.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://networksnorthwest.org). Networks Northwest's member counties are Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

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