

**News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 21, 2021

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Northwest Michigan Businesses Receive \$1.28 Million From Going PRO Talent Fund

NORTHWEST, MI – Businesses in Northwest Michigan will receive \$1,288,698 for employee training from the state’s Going PRO Talent Fund in 2021. All 42 employers from the Northwest 10-county region who submitted applications were awarded the requested funds. Employers will use the funding to train 1,223 new and existing employees and start 53 new apprentices across the region. Businesses applied for the Talent Fund grants with assistance from Northwest Michigan Works!

“Now more than ever, we need to invest in our talent and businesses to ensure strong economic recovery and growth,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “Programs like the Going PRO Talent Fund allow us to put Michiganders on the path to good paying jobs while helping Michigan employers develop the critical talent they need to compete in the global economy.”

Statewide in 2021, \$39,015,052 from the Going PRO Talent Fund is helping nearly 30,000 workers secure employment, industry-recognized credentials, and strong wages by providing training grants to more than 850 Michigan businesses to support their high-demand, high-skill talent needs.

A full list of Going PRO Talent Fund grants is available at, Michigan.gov/TalentFund.

Since the program's launch in 2014, over 3,000 Michigan businesses have received Talent Fund awards to assist in training, developing, and retaining newly hired and current employees. Training must fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer and lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by the industry. The Going PRO Talent Fund has supported more than 94,000 workers with training over the years, including new hires and current workers.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at danboss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. 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.