

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over 1,800 Northern Michigan Students Explore Career Opportunities at 6th Annual MiCareerQuest Northwest

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Over 1,800 ninth graders from more than 20 northern Michigan school districts participated in the region's largest career exploration event on May 8th in Traverse City. Held at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center, MiCareerQuest Northwest provides students the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers through a hands-on, interactive experience. Over 50 local employers participated, featuring high-demand, high-wage occupations in manufacturing, healthcare, construction, IT, human services, agriculture and hospitality. Students talk one-on-one with working professionals while using actual workplace equipment, tools and technology; making the connection between classroom learning and real-world jobs.

Northwest Michigan Works! a program of Networks Northwest hosted the event, bringing together employers, students and schools for the sixth year in a row.

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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.

"Participation in the MiCareerQuest program is essential for businesses to engage with and inspire our future workforce," said Brenda McLellan, Vice President of Investor Engagement with Traverse Connect. "This hands-on, interactive event not only helps students discover career pathways but also ensures a pipeline of skilled talent tailored to our region's needs, driving both community strength and economic growth."

In addition, ninth grade Kalkaska student Aaliyah Hillier states, "I haven't thought about thinking of my career until now. It's been really fun here because I got to learn things about jobs that I've never thought of doing before."

More information about MiCareerQuest Northwest, including photos from this year's event is available at networksnorthwest.org/micqnw.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dana O'Dell at 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

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

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