

## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2026

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### **Northwest Michigan Works! partners with Walstrom Marine to Register first Marine Services Technician Apprenticeship in the Region**

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI– Northwest Michigan Works!, in partnership with Walstrom Marine, has officially launched the region's first-ever U.S. Department of Labor Registered **Marine Services Technician Apprenticeship**. The new apprenticeship marks a major milestone for professional trades training and workforce development in Northwest Lower Michigan.

This innovative program will provide apprentices with a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience designed to meet industry needs and strengthen the skilled trades pipeline in the region. Apprentices will complete **6,000 hours of on-the-job training**, gaining real-world, and practical experience under the guidance of qualified, professional and proficient mentors.

In addition to on-site learning, apprentices will complete **435 hours of comprehensive proprietary coursework through the employer and vendor partners** that deepen technical knowledge and reinforce essential marine technician skills.

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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.

“Walstrom Marine truly gets what this industry needs—by investing in an apprenticeship program, we’re showing the next generation that we’re serious about their future and that a career in the marine industry can offer a lifelong connection to the water. I’m grateful to be part of a company that has been such a strong foundation for me and my family, and I’m excited to help give back by showing others that a life on the water isn’t just a dream—it’s a real and rewarding career path,” stated Brian Johnson, Lead Marine Technician.

“Developing in-demand registered apprenticeship programs, like Marine Services Technician, allows employers the opportunity to upskill their workforce using customized methods that meet their specific workforce needs. Northwest Michigan Works! is proud to sponsor Walstrom Marine and their Marine Services Technician program,” remarked Evelyn Szpliet, Northwest Michigan Works! Regional Director of Apprenticeship Services.

Registered apprenticeships are certified 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. Northwest Michigan Works! provides technical assistance and administrative support for registered apprenticeships, including development, implementation and program management. For more information about Registered Apprenticeships through Northwest Michigan Works!, visit [nwm.org/apprenticeships](http://nwm.org/apprenticeships)

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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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