

News Release
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New Skilled Trades Training Program Available in Benzie County

BENZIE COUNTY, MI—An innovative new program in Benzie County will focus on entry-level construction skills, solid work values, and employment readiness. Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Training (S.T.A.R.T.) is scheduled to begin in late June. The training is being organized by Advocates for Benzie County and supported by Northwest Michigan Works!

S.T.A.R.T. is an eight-week, no cost program with a weekly stipend provided for those who qualify. Students must be 18 years of age and all skill levels, interests, and backgrounds are encouraged to register for orientation. The curriculum for the training is endorsed through the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights and allows an interactive approach to exploring a quality career pathway within the professional trades industry.

“S.T.A.R.T. will enable students from all walks of life to participate in a short-term, pre-apprenticeship opportunity focused on an exceptional career in the building trades,” said Jason Reed, Organizer, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Co-chair of the S.T.A.R.T. program.

Only 15 candidates will be selected to participate in the training. Registration is available by emailing Evelyn Szpliet at evelyn.szpliet@networksnorthwest.org or Mary Link at mink@advocatesforbenziecounty.org.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). 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.