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BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

As Michigan's economy transforms to meet changing global demands, we must provide the thousands of affected workers with the opportunities they need to acquire new skills to transition to the jobs of the new economy. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's comprehensive economic plan has worked to meet this challenge by overhauling how the state provides workforce training to accelerate and expand opportunities.

In the last year, Granholm's MI Opportunity Partnership and the nationally-recognized Regional Skills Alliances have helped more than 112,000 Michigan citizens find training and good jobs. The state has provided nearly \$30 million in grants to nursing programs to expand faculty and training opportunities. In addition, the state has partnered with Michigan's credit unions to provide nearly \$40 million in low-interest loans for displaced workers to get additional training.

Now, Michigan must take the next step to help thousands of displaced workers who need new skills and training to transition to a new career.

Governor Granholm's new No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program will accelerate the transition of thousands of workers into good-paying jobs by providing free community college tuition for them to gain training and skills for new careers in high-demand occupations, emerging industries, or entrepreneurship. The Granholm administration will also launch an initiative to rapidly increase the number of trained nursing faculty to ensure that Michigan has the capacity it needs to meet the rising demand for health care professionals.

NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND

For too long, Michigan's unemployment system has encouraged workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing and globalization to wait for a better opportunity to come along. By redirecting the state and federal dollars already used for worker training programs, we can open wide the doors of education and training to every displaced worker in Michigan who needs it.

Governor Granholm's No Worker Left Behind plan will help more than 100,000 displaced workers by:

- providing up to two years free tuition at any Michigan community college or other approved training program;
- allowing displaced workers to receive needed training in high demand skills while receiving unemployment benefits.

To qualify for the NWLB program, displaced workers will need to take a skills assessment test administered by Michigan Works! agencies (MWAs). Qualifying workers must pursue an associate's degree or attend a technical training program in a high-demand occupation, emerging industry, or entrepreneurship program. High-demand occupations vary from region to region, however some common examples include healthcare, accounting and bookkeeping services, information technology, auto service technicians and mechanics.

No Worker Left Behind is a one-time offer for Michigan's displaced workers. Eligible participants have three years to participate in this program.

ADDRESSING MICHIGAN'S NURSING SHORTAGE

Addressing Michigan's nursing shortage, which is estimated to be 18,000 by 2015, has been a high priority for Governor Granholm since taking office. The Governor understands that the nursing shortage is both a public health concern and an economic development issue in Michigan. Under her leadership, Michigan has invested in innovative strategies to create a high-quality nursing workforce that meets the health care needs of communities across the state.

To date, the Granholm administration has invested \$30 million through the MI Opportunity Partnership in Michigan universities and community colleges for innovative programs to produce additional nursing graduates. In addition, twelve of Michigan's Regional Skills Alliances are focused on recruitment, employee development, retention, and collaboration in health care professions, including nursing. Michigan is leading the nation in investment, innovation, and tangible outcomes from these initiatives to address the current nursing shortage and the future workforce needs of the state.

To ensure that Michigan adequately addresses both the current nursing need and the growing future need, Governor Granholm knows we must do more to expand the number of faculty in the state's nursing programs, increase clinical placement opportunities, and provide accelerated degree programs for workers choosing nursing as a second career.

In her State of the State address tonight, Governor Granholm unveiled the Michigan Nursing Corps to address these needs. In the next three years, Michigan will train over 500 additional nursing faculty and graduate more than 3,000 additional nurses.

Michigan will reach this bold goal by building on the Governor's existing initiatives. The Michigan Nursing Corps initiative will:

1. accelerate training of master's-prepared nursing faculty through nationally accredited programs in Michigan;
2. accelerate training of doctoral-prepared faculty through nationally accredited nursing doctoral programs in Michigan;
3. accelerate training of staff nurses prepared as clinical faculty using a common statewide curriculum developed by accredited grantee institutions. This training will allow for additional clinical placements for nursing students in an effort to eliminate the current 3-5 year backlog of clinical placements required for graduation.
4. recruit Michigan's displaced workers holding bachelor's degrees in science for admission to accelerated, one-year programs in accredited Michigan nursing programs.

Participants in all of these programs must commit to working and teaching in Michigan.

Together, these steps will both increase the number of trained nurses in Michigan and the state's capacity to train additional nurses. The increase in nursing faculty and increased availability of clinical instructors and clinical placements will enable more timely completion of nursing programs and more new nursing graduates to care for Michigan's citizens.