

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, December 29, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Last year, during this radio address, I told you my New Year's resolution was to go anywhere and do anything to grow Michigan's economy.

And as 2006 comes to a close, I am proud to look back on a year of planning and execution, lots of travel and a whole lot of hard work and see the progress we've made despite the economic challenges our state is facing.

In 2006, you spoke loudly and clearly about the kind of leadership you want as this state continues to transition.

You said you want leadership that invests in the things that matter – like health care and education. You said you want leadership that creates opportunity for all of our citizens. And that's exactly what we're working to do.

Consider our progress:

The \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund awarded \$138 million to 85 companies to come to Michigan or stay in Michigan to develop new technologies and create jobs.

14 companies chose to locate corporate headquarters in Michigan including Google's AdWords, Whirlpool and BASF.

I signed legislation to increase the minimum wage for the first time in nine years and created the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit to help our working families.

Spending for public schools is at an all-time high and just this week, I signed legislation to make a \$4,000 scholarship available to every student in our state.

And I'm working to create the Michigan First Health Care Plan to give citizens universal access to affordable health insurance.

My comprehensive economic plan is the right path for Michigan to build a thriving, robust economy, to create good paying jobs, and to protect our exceptional quality of life.

2006 was a good year for progress, but we have a lot of work left to do. With continued hard work and the dedication of our outstanding state employees, I know that 2007 will be a year of growth and progress in Michigan.

I wish you and your family the very best in the year ahead.

Thank you for listening, and have a safe and happy and healthy New Year.