

September 13, 2007



NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND

Friends,

Here's the latest news on what has been a very busy month for NWLB.

Success a Problem?

Public support for No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) has been very strong. In fact, demand for space at orientation sessions held at local Michigan Works! Agency offices have increased dramatically since roll out - in some areas as much as 500 percent! As a result, 1,364 individuals were entered into training between August 1-29. Also during this period the NWLB Action Team received more than 600 inquiries, which led to a second consequence of success - the need to increase the size of the Action Team.

No Worker Left Behind

We have added five new members who come from various areas of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth and bring a wide range of experience and talent. The team is dedicated to moving the initiative forward and providing the highest level of customer service. If you have a question, just call the No Worker Left Behind hotline at 517.335.1319 or email nwlb@michigan.gov. A team member will respond to you promptly.

More Money Released to No Worker Left Behind

On August 31st Interim Director of the Bureau of Workforce Programs Janet Howard signed Policy Issuance 07-14, releasing more than \$3.2 million of WIA Dislocated Worker funds into the NWLB stream. The move is another example of the Bureau's dedicating every available dollar to train Michigan workers.

Recent press coverage on No Worker Left Behind

[Watch Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's interview on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight*](#)

**Please note an error in reporting. The report indicated the maximum tuition assistance amount at \$10,000 per year. The correct amount is \$5,000 per year for two years for a maximum amount of \$10,000 per person.*

http://www.gladwinmi.com/record/?section_id=5&story_id=48908

<http://www.petoskeynews.com/articles/2007/09/06/news/news02.txt>



Let's settle this funding thing once and for all

No Worker Left Behind is the backbone of the system that will deliver workforce training in the state of Michigan. This does not mean the system is broken - but it does need tweaking. Why? In case you missed it last week,



Volkswagen announced it is moving its HQ to Virginia. Volkswagen of America's new president and chief executive Stefen Jacoby talked about "Northern Virginia's good schools" and "skilled workers" and said "By reducing this organization by 30 percent, you need even more talents, more creative people, more motivated people."

Is anybody else insulted yet?

I know for a fact that Oakland County, the Governor's office and everyone involved did all they could to stop this move - and in fact, most VW employees will stay here in Michigan. There was a litany of reasons for the move that Mr. Jacoby noted, but four words jumped out - skilled workers and creative people. No Worker Left Behind realigns the myriad of programs currently available to concentrate as much funding as we can on training Michigan's displaced and underemployed workers. But just as important, it shouts to the world - including employers and the press - in words all can understand, Michigan is making it an absolutely top priority to help our people develop into the most highly skilled and creative workforce on the planet.

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Receive Future
No Worker Left
Behind Updates

Does it really matter to an unemployed person or an employer seeking workers with specific skills where the money for training comes from? No. So now we will take all the great work that's been done with funding sources including the federal Workforce Investment, Wagner-Peyser and Trade Adjustment Assistance Acts and put as many dollars as possible toward training. In addition, the Department of Labor & Economic Growth has gone through the budget and squeezed out every dime and put it in one pot, and we have asked the Michigan Works! Agencies to do the same. The Governor has asked the legislature to put \$40 million of General Fund dollars in the budget for NWLB. This additional money would bring the funding pool up to the level we feel is necessary to reach all the citizens that could benefit from training.



Personally, I hope I never again see a quote like the one in the Volkswagen articles. We have to work harder than ever to get Michiganders the skills they need - no matter where the money comes from.

Interesting Fact

Seventy percent of the fastest growing jobs by 2010 will require a postsecondary degree, but only 29 percent of Michiganders aged 25 and over have attained an associate's or higher degree, compared to the national average of 31 percent and the leading state (Massachusetts) at 40 percent.

Fuel for Thought

Monroe Community College has a provision in its admissions policy to allow applicants who did not graduate from high school to enter the college. There are many factors that enter into the equation but the point is, they are attempting to get everyone involved in education - and isn't that what they're supposed to do?



NWLB Team presents at the 2007 MWA Annual Conference

The No Worker Left Behind Action Team conducted two workshops at the

Michigan Works! Association's 2007 annual conference on September 10th in Grand Rapids. If anyone would like a copy of the presentation drop us a note.

The Power of NWLB (an electrifying story)

Since the launch of No Worker Left Behind, we have begun to hear success stories that emphasize how this program will truly help people and make a positive impact in their lives. One individual the No Worker Left Behind Action Team followed up with lives in South Haven; he was interested in pursuing technical training for a new career in the nuclear power industry. This happens to be a high-demand career for his area of the state (southwest Michigan). He had done extensive research with local employers and realized there are many jobs waiting to be filled in that area. He then researched colleges and universities in Michigan to determine if any had a short-term training program in nuclear power processes. Finding none, he used the Internet to find an online program through Bismarck State College, one of only a few in the country that offered the training he needed, and one which happens to be highly respected within the industry.

Although there were some initial setbacks, he contacted the No Worker Left Behind Action Team, who with the help of the MWA director, produced a positive result. He is now enrolled in training with hopes of a career in the nuclear power industry and the prospect of an income that will allow his family to stay in Michigan and prosper here. This is just one example of how the partners in this program can work as a team to produce positive results!



Look for more news about Michigan's workforce programs in the coming weeks!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Levin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a stylized "L".

Andy Levin, Deputy Director
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth