

# Granholtm announces Regional Skills Alliance grants

LANSING – Gov. Jennifer Granholtm announced \$810,932 in grants to create seven new Michigan Regional Skills Alliances (MiRSAs) and expand two others to help ensure that workers get the necessary training to do the work employers need today and in the future.

The new MiRSAs represent a diverse group of industries, including health care, manufacturing, construction, hospitality and tourism, and biotechnology. There are now 32 MiRSAs statewide, giving all counties of Michigan access to a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance.

“These MiRSAs are providing Michigan workers with critical job training and providing Michigan businesses with the skilled workers they need to grow in today’s 21st century economy,” Granholtm said.

Granholtm proposed the Michigan Regional Skills Alliances Initiative in her 2004 State of the State address.

MiRSAs are regionally and industry-based partnerships comprised of employers, educational institutions, training providers, economic develop-

ment organizations, and public workforce system agencies. Start-up funding for the new MiRSAs is provided under the Workforce Investment Act through the U.S. Department of Labor. The Michigan program is administered by the Department of Labor & Economic Growth Bureau of Workforce Programs.

“Since the launch of Governor Granholtm’s MiRSA initiative more than 2,100 individuals have received training and 813 individuals were placed into employment,” said Robert W. Swanson, Director of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth. “Additionally we have significant increases in the number of employers, community college, universities and school districts, faith-based and community service organizations to join as MiRSAs partners as word about this successful initiative continues to spread and as the program grows.”

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth is the state government agency charged with providing the skilled workforce Michigan needs

to enhance and maintain its economy. To this end, the department is working with employers, K-12 schools, community colleges and local Workforce Development Boards to develop a comprehensive career development system.

For more information about the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, visit the department’s Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dleg](http://www.michigan.gov/dleg). For more information specific to Regional Skills Alliances, visit the following Web site [www.michigan.gov/rsa](http://www.michigan.gov/rsa).

Michigan Works! The Job Force Board is currently coordinating three existing Regional Skills Alliances which include: Healthcare, Manufacturing and Skilled Trades.

The Delta County Commerce Center will partner with Michigan Works! The Job Force Board to coordinate the new Tourism Regional Skills Alliance awarded through this grant.

Tourism has great potential as a positive economic and social force, creating jobs, tax revenue, infrastructure, local

identity and entrepreneurial opportunities. The degree to which tourism is successful as an economic stimulus in a community is most often dependent on research, planning, employer and community involvement. Tourism can be an excellent route for a rural community to adjust to difficult economic times.

Regionally, the Job Force Board’s Comprehensive Strategic Plan focuses on building the occupational and technology skills of the current and emerging workforce so our regional economy not only grows, but remains globally competitive.

Through this new Tourism Region Skills Alliance, business leaders in the tourism industry will come together to address the following goals:

- Build skill capacity of emerging and incumbent workers to ensure a competitive workforce.
- Increase knowledge base of local history and area attractions among tourism workers.
- Increase pipeline of workers to tourism industry; increase opportunities for career advancement and retention.