

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR SNYDER'S 2014 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

### **SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS**

Under the Pure Michigan Micro Lending Initiative, Huntington Bank committed \$5 million for a pilot program in Detroit to help small businesses grow. Upon its successful completion, Huntington will commit up to \$20 million to be distributed through lines of credit to community micro lenders. Under the 10,000 Small Businesses program, Goldman Sachs announced a \$20 million partnership to help entrepreneurs in Detroit by providing access to education, financial capital and business support services.

### **FOSTERING INNOVATION WITH U.P. SMARTZONES**

The MTEC SmartZone is a high-tech business accelerator that has fostered economic success in the U.P. by bringing together Michigan Technological University, entrepreneurs, and local governments. That work is being furthered as business, community, and university leaders between Marquette/NMU and Houghton/Hancock MTU are currently working with the MTEC SmartZone to establish a life sciences/IT business accelerator in Marquette.

### **CONNECTING TALENT AND OPPORTUNITY WITH ECONOMIC & EDUCATION SUMMITS**

In 2014, Governor Snyder will again host Economic and Education Summits in March and April respectively to continue fostering a collaboration between educators and the private sector – and to connect talent with opportunity in each of Michigan's 10 regions.

### **EXPANDING MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY BY WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS**

In order to help Michigan's economy grow stronger, Governor Snyder will sign an Executive Order creating the Michigan Office of New Americans to attract immigrants to Michigan. Governor Snyder is also urging Washington to approve Michigan's application to become only the second state in the country with a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center to help attract investment and create jobs for American workers.

### **A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY IMPROVING EDUCATION**

Governor Snyder has called for reforms to improve education in Michigan including: encouraging a voluntary program in which participating schools would extend classes year-round to help ensure students are making continual progress; a uniform definition of "truancy" so we can more effectively combat absenteeism that is hurting our kids; implementing teacher evaluation, professional development and effectiveness reforms recommended by the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness; and making Michigan a leader in promoting STEM and career tech programs.

### **A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SENIORS**

Governor Snyder will present a special message in the spring to outline his vision for meeting the needs of Michigan seniors. In addition, the governor called for making Michigan a "no-wait state" for seniors who qualify for home-delivered meals and in-home services and for legislators to pass pending bills that provide consumer protections for seniors.

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### **HELPING THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES & DISABILITIES**

Governor Snyder called for adopting the recommendations of the Mental Health and Wellness Report to help people with mental illness, substance abuse disorders or developmental disabilities, including: better coordination and integration of physical and mental health care; best practices for mental health services for students; better employment preparation and opportunities; housing solutions; and efforts to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

### **IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY**

Governor Snyder called for further implementation of recommendations by the Mental Health Commission School Safety Work Group, including school safety drills and the recently passed "OK 2 Say" hotline for confidential reporting of potential harm. He also called for additional funding in the FY15 budget for public safety, including school safety initiatives.

### **PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Governor Snyder called for policies that will help protect Michigan's environment, including increasing efforts to combat invasive species in the state and developing a framework for a comprehensive energy policy.

### **BETTER GOVERNMENT WITH A FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Governor Snyder encouraged the House to join the Senate and pass a joint resolution in support of a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in order to help Washington follow Michigan's model of fiscal responsibility.

### **ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS**

Governor Snyder recommends the creation of strong financial intervention teams, working in the state Departments of Treasury and Education, to create earlier alerts to financial instability and launch earlier intervention strategies, including education and reporting, in order to help schools and communities in financial distress.

### **TAX RELIEF FOR LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME MICHIGAN FAMILIES**

While continuing to be fiscally responsible in the short and long term, it is appropriate to provide some tax relief to hard-working families. Michigan has come a long way in three years. The state's fiscal health has improved due to the tough but necessary decisions that have been made. Governor Snyder will make an FY 15 budget recommendation that eases the burden on low- and middle-income families so that they can continue to share in Michigan's comeback.