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Welcome wagon greets GM suppliers

A welcome wagon of nearly 20 **Capital Area Michigan Works!**, **Capital Area Manufacturing Council** and **Lansing Community College** representatives met with more than 40 staff from 12 new suppliers to **General Motors'** Lansing Delta Township plant.

"Staff at the plant saw this as an opportunity to welcome and inform our new business partners and their staff of the services available for businesses in the capital area," says **Bob Sherer**, executive director of the manufacturing council. "These new-to-the-area branches typically resort to the use of services in geographic areas with which they are familiar, so why not introduce them to the Lansing region and what it has to offer?"

Supplier personnel from companies such as **Ryder Systems, Plastech, JCI/Bridgewater, Magna Powertrain** and **Yazaki North America** were provided a tour of Lansing Community College's state-of-the-art M-TEC, an introduction to the facility's business-friendly programs, information of the benefits of membership in the manufacturing council and an overview of the recruitment, screening, training and WorkKeys services offered by Capital Area Michigan Works!

"These employers bring to our region many opportunities for building positive relationships," says Sherer. "Reaching out to them to help their transition to the area is beneficial for everyone."

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New council kicks off health careers efforts

The capital area will need more than 4,000 new and replacement workers in health care by 2012. A new council has formed in the region to connect workers with those jobs in the health care industry. The Capital Healthcare and Employment Council held its first meeting in March, bringing together employers from the area's hospitals and members of the K-12 and post-secondary education communities.

The group was formed through a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance grant and will work to stave off pending worker shortages in health care. The council will work with employers, educators and students to give students of all ages an opportunity to connect with the rapidly growing, and well-paying, health care careers.

"We know health careers provide remarkable opportunities for people," says Tim Brannan, executive director of the council. "We need to focus on getting K-12 students and job seekers in the community to realize the potential and get the education for these 'hot' jobs."

For more information on the Capital Healthcare and Employment Council, visit www.camw.org.