

Resolution in Support of Local Sixty by 2030 Goals

Whereas, the Michigan Workforce Development Board (“MWDB”) is charged with helping the state to align workforce development system in Michigan, including the development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers, workers, and jobseekers and helping to align the system overall. Further, when exercising its duties, the Board may provide policy advice across workforce areas, including workforce development, community colleges, career and technical education, and workforce elements of economic development;

Whereas, to support these aims, the Board must actively participate in convening Michigan’s workforce development system’s stakeholders, brokering relations with a diverse range of employers, and leveraging support for workforce development activities;

Whereas, in 2019, Governor Whitmer announced an ambitious goal, critical to the workforce and economic development success of the state: that 60 percent of Michigan’s working age adults will have a post-secondary degree or certificate by the year 2030;

Whereas, the MWDB affirms that the goal of 60 percent degree or certificate attainment is of the utmost priority for Michigan businesses and Michigan residents to compete in a global economy and job market that increasingly requires higher levels of skill and training;

Whereas, post-secondary education is also the surest path for Michigan citizens to participate in the job market, earn family-supporting wages, and achieve rising levels of prosperity;

Whereas, the MWDB affirms that in addition to statewide efforts to grow educational attainment, an important strategy for achieving the state goal of “60 by 2030” will be co-ownership of this goal by a diverse set of stakeholders at local and regional levels, including the adoption of 2030 goal crafted by local stakeholders to align local resources toward this vital aim; and

Whereas, examples of local communities uniting around an educational attainment goal has a precedent of helping stakeholders to align resources and make important advances, including, in Michigan, the Oakland80 initiative.

Therefore, the Michigan Workforce Development Board resolves to support the creation of local, county, or regional goals around the state, to be set by diverse sets of stakeholders, convened independently or with the support of the Office of Sixty by 2030 at the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. The adoption of local goals will enable:

- Local stakeholders to align their own strategic goals to the local goal,
- Greater alignment of resources in the education, training, and employment systems toward a unified aim,
- New resources to be identified and deployed in pursuit of that goal, and

- The creation of new, cross-sector solutions for expanding the talent pipeline, reducing barriers to education and training, and helping Michigan citizens to successfully complete degrees and certificates.

The MWDB resolves further that the State of Michigan should commit long-term to supporting these efforts so that we can eliminate barriers that are identified at the local level and lead to the greatest possible alignment of resources, and encourages local partners to embrace and accelerate these efforts.