

TALENT TALK

March 2025 | Volume 8, Issue 3



GST MICHIGAN
GENESEE
SHIAWASSEE
THUMB **WORKS!**™

Advancing Employers | Enhancing Talent



REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

32.9K
Job Postings

686
Occupations

5.6K
Employers

3.2K
Locations

67%
Employed at
Exit of Training

Real-Time Intelligence Report - Online Job Ads 07/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Active Job Ads

Registered Nurses	2,645
Retail Salespersons	1,483
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,362
Medical and Health Services Managers	815
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	798
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	691
Social and Human Service Assistants	688
Fast Food and Counter Workers	626
Stockers and Order Fillers	619
Physical Therapists	573
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	520
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	498
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	492
Nursing Assistants	471
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	462
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	418
Speech-Language Pathologists	366
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	362
Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	346
Customer Service Representatives	340
Human Resources Specialists	317
Production Workers, All Other	311
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	302
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	295
Medical Assistants	290
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	284
Teaching Assistants, Preschool, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary School, Except Special Education	282
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	280
Pharmacy Technicians	270
Surgical Technologists	247

 **10,247**
Page Likes

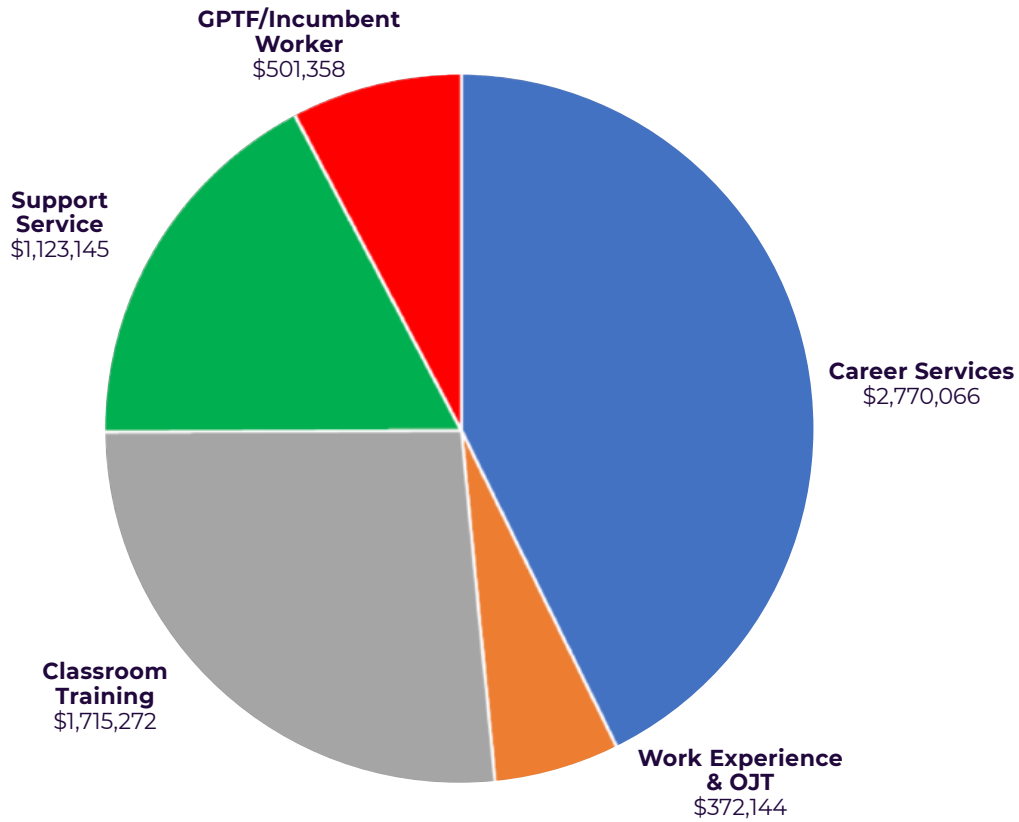
 **697**
Followers

 **582**
Followers

DATA ANALYSIS

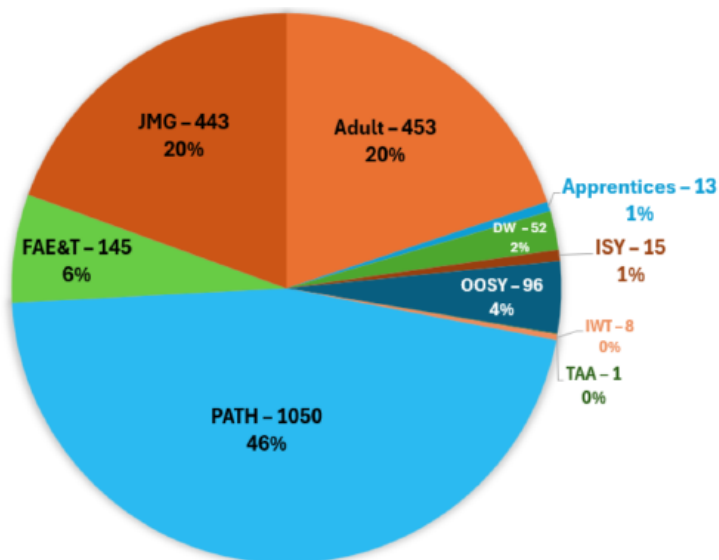
Career Services & Participant Payments

July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024



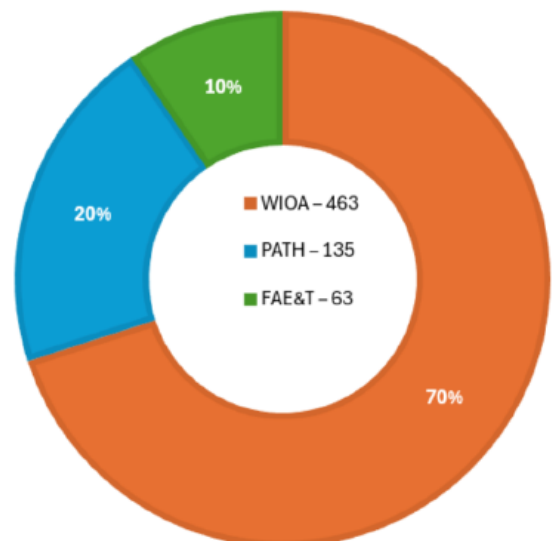
New Enrollments

July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024



Entered Training

July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024



EMPLOYEE SUCCESS STORIES

WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, **ANOTHER OPENS**

Huron Co. - Kellie turned to GST Michigan Works! for help renewing her CNA certification after learning that her job at Northwood Meadows Assisted Living was coming to an end. As the midnight supervisor for three years, Kellie had dedicated herself to caring for others, but with the facility preparing to close, her hours were reduced from 40 to just 16 per week. To continue working in the field she loved, Kellie needed to renew her expired CNA certification.

After years of serving others, Kellie found herself in need of support to get back on track. She knew the school she wanted to attend and when the next class would begin, and with the guidance of GST Michigan Works!, she quickly qualified for both the WIOA program and the MiREACH program. Once her application was approved, Kellie enrolled in the CNA program at Davis Training Institute in Saginaw. Just two weeks later, she completed her coursework.

The following month, Kellie passed her State Certification Exam and received her new Certified Nurse Aide certificate. Shortly thereafter, she secured a full-time position with Scheurer Healthcare at Country Bay Village Assisted Living Facility in Pigeon. Now working 40 hours per week, Kellie enjoys a fair wage and will be eligible for healthcare benefits after 90 days.

Kellie is thriving in her new role, continuing to provide compassionate care for those in need.

When one door closed, GST Michigan Works! helped Kellie open another. With the support of assistance with tuition and other services, Kellie was able to embrace a new opportunity at Country Bay Village, where she's once again making a difference in the lives of others.

WOMEN EXCELLING IN NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES

Tuscola Co. - Amy worked part-time, only 20 hours per week, as a driving instructor at Mr. R's Driving School, earning \$20 an hour. While she enjoyed driving, she needed a full-time job to support her family and was ready for the challenge of obtaining her CDL. GST Michigan Works! was able to provide career counseling, support services, and job search assistance to help Amy choose the right path.

Amy successfully completed her CDL certification on October 3, 2024, in just two months. Within two months of earning her CDL, she found full-time employment at Crausley Trucking. She started on November 27, 2024, with benefits after 90 days. She is set to receive a promotion, as well as a pay raise after gaining 90 days of experience.

I was only working two or three weeks out of the month, and I was laid off for two weeks at a time. I needed a career that was more reliable to support my family. If GST Michigan Works! hadn't helped me, I would not be working right now. Thank you so much. GST Michigan Works! saved me."



HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TRULY PAY OFF!



Sanilac Co. - Merisa first came to GST Michigan Works! in December 2019 as a Dislocated Worker, eager to further her education. She enrolled in the Business Management program at Northwood University, determined to build a better future. However, like many, she faced unexpected challenges.

would open doors for career advancement and higher pay to better support her family. With her children now older, she felt confident that she could dedicate the necessary time to her studies.

Through the WIOA program, Merisa qualified for grant funding, allowing her to return to Northwood University. She successfully completed her degree in October 2024, and her hard work paid off—she was promoted to Executive Administrative Assistant, earning a well-deserved \$2.50 per hour pay increase!

MERISA'S JOURNEY TO COMPLETING HER DEGREE

With a large family at home, including small children, and her husband's demanding work schedule, Merisa struggled to find the time she needed to focus on her studies. Balancing school and family responsibilities became overwhelming, and she ultimately made the difficult decision to withdraw from her classes.

But in May 2024, Merisa returned to GST Michigan Works! with renewed determination to finish what she started. She had begun working at Community Mental Health in Sandusky as an Executive Administrative Assistant's Assistant and knew that completing her bachelor's degree

FROM LPN TO RN WITH GST MICHIGAN WORKS! SUPPORT

Huron Co. - In 2010, Megan turned to GST Michigan Works! (GSTMW) for assistance in pursuing her dream of becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). GSTMW was able to use funding to cover the cost of her tuition, uniforms, shoes, her NCLEX exam, and more. Megan successfully obtained her LPN license and began her career in healthcare.

Fast forward to 2023, Megan was working as an LPN but aspired to take her career to the next level by becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). She enrolled in the LPN-to-RN transition program at St. Clair County Community College. With three semesters left to complete her RN degree, Megan once again partnered with GST Michigan Works! Through the WIOA program, she received financial support for tuition, scrubs, shoes, a stethoscope, and her NCLEX exam, along with guidance and encouragement from her Career Coach, Angel.

On May 30, 2024, Megan officially obtained her RN license, marking the culmination of years of dedication and hard work. By August, she had secured a position as an RN, allowing her to increase her earnings and continue making a meaningful impact in her field.

Reflecting on her experience, Megan shared,



"I felt well-prepared to enter my career field after completing the LPN-to-RN transition program. The variety of clinical experiences and knowledgeable instructors made all the difference. Going back to college as an adult with a job, a family, and responsibilities was even more challenging than I anticipated. **The funding from [GST] Michigan Works! allowed me to reduce my work hours and devote more time to my education and family, relieving a huge amount of stress.** Besides the funding, having someone checking in with you and cheering you on is a huge blessing. Angel was always there to help in any way she could. The resume resources were also beneficial!"

GST Michigan Works! is proud to have played a role in her success and looks forward to seeing her continue to excel as a Registered Nurse.

BENJAMIN'S JOURNEY TO A NEW CAREER

Lapeer Co. - Benjamin, a 24-year-old participant in the WIOA program, has always valued independence. While still in high school, he sought his first job and began working at Burger King as a cook. After graduating, he had the opportunity to continue his education but instead chose to enter the workforce full-time in search of a stable job.

He secured a position as a machine operator in a factory, providing the financial stability he desired. He remained in that role for over five years, but over time, he felt restless and began considering a career change.

Recently, Benjamin became a father for the first time, which further motivated him to explore new professional opportunities that would provide a better future for himself and his family. He had always dreamed of becoming a truck driver and, after learning about the financial assistance offered by GST Michigan Works!, he didn't hesitate to reach out.

When Benjamin first met with his career coach, he was quiet, reserved, and always respectful. He made it clear that

continuing to work while pursuing training was essential, as he had the responsibility of supporting his family. He needed a CDL program that offered weekend-only classes.

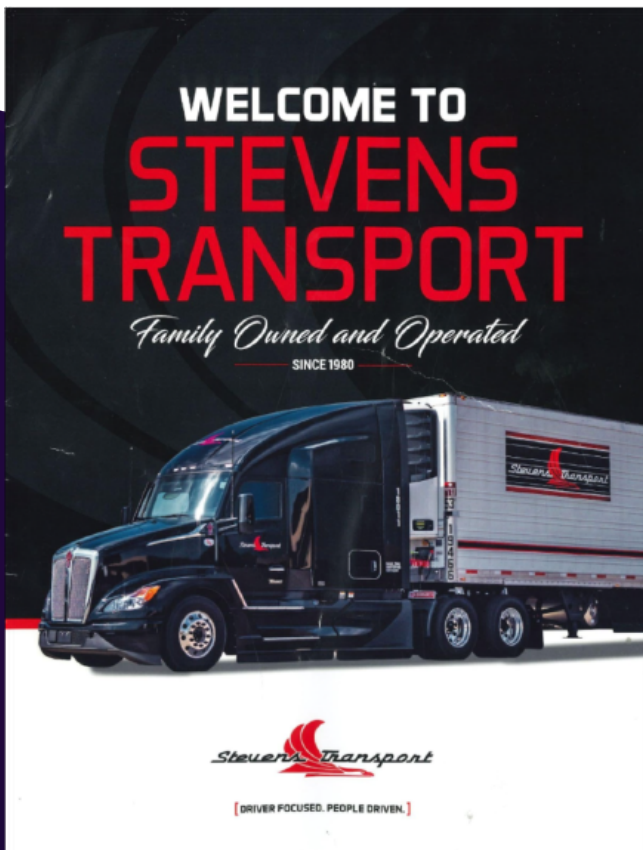
After reviewing his options, he found that Coast 2 Coast Driving Academy was the best fit for his schedule. He met all the requirements to enroll in the CDL-A program and started his training. Balancing work and school was exhausting, but Benjamin remained committed. Within a couple of months, he completed the program.

At the end of his training, the school invited students to a job fair, where Benjamin saw a great opportunity to begin his job search. His efforts paid off almost immediately.

During the job fair, he connected with the team from Stevens Transport and submitted his application the same day. Soon after, he received the exciting news—he had been hired! Stevens Transport's mission is to recruit and retain top-quality employees, providing them with the best tools and training to excel. Benjamin was eager to start his new career, knowing it would allow him to support his family and grow both personally and professionally.

As part of his new job, Benjamin traveled to Dallas, Texas, for training with his employer. Upon completion, he will return to Michigan, where a local, permanent, full-time trucking position awaits him.

When Benjamin returned to GST Michigan Works! to share the news, he was a transformed man. The once-shy young job seeker now exuded confidence. But one thing hadn't changed—the bright smile that had been with him since the very first day he walked into our office.



TURNING BARRIERS INTO BREAKTHROUGHS



Genesee Co. - Ashley entered the PATH program in July 2023 with clear goals and aspirations. Working closely with her case manager, she developed an action plan to overcome the challenges that had hindered her educational and employment progress.

On September 11, 2023, Ashley began the Phlebotomy Technician course at Soaring CNA Training Center, successfully completing it and earning her certification on October 5, 2023. After completing her training, she immediately began job searching while pursuing additional educational opportunities. Her determination led her to enroll in the Surgical Technician program at Abcott Institute, which started on November 6, 2023.

Despite the demanding schedule, which required her to commute to Detroit four days a week, Ashley stayed focused. Her hard work paid off on December 3, 2024, when she graduated from the program, passed her state exam, and earned her Surgical Technician license. During

her clinical training at Henry Ford Health System, Ashley impressed the team and was offered a position as a Patient Pay Specialist. She began working full-time on December 2, 2024.

Although she is now employed, Ashley continues to apply for positions as a Surgical Technician and Phlebotomy Technician to fully utilize her certifications. Reflecting on her journey, she shared her excitement about achieving her long-term educational goals and her determination to secure a role aligned with her training.

The PATH program provided Ashley with supportive services, including funding for training, mileage reimbursement, work attire, and transitional support. These resources, combined with Ashley's positive attitude and perseverance, helped her overcome the challenges of being a single parent and achieve her goals. Her case manager, Bianca, remarked, "Ashley's determination has been the key to unlocking her achievements. She has been an absolute joy to work with throughout this process."

Ashley's gratitude was evident in an email she sent to the PATH program team:



"I want to personally thank you and your team for the incredible support you provided me through the PATH program. **With your help, I completed two certificate programs—Phlebotomy and an Accelerated Surgical Tech program. Special thanks to my caseworker, Bianca, who was always supportive and encouraging.** [GST] Michigan Works has been a tremendous help, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated team."

Ashley's story exemplifies how determination and the right support system can turn barriers into life-changing achievements. She exits the PATH program educated, employed, and on track to reach even greater heights in her healthcare career.

PURSuing HIS CALLING: JESSE'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A PARAMEDIC



Sanilac Co. - Jesse has dedicated much of his life to serving others as a firefighter. His journey began in 2008 when he became a volunteer firefighter with Elk Township Fire and Rescue. From the start, he knew this was his calling—he thrived on the sense of purpose that came

with helping others. In 2019, Jesse took the next step in his career by becoming a Firefighter/EMT.

As time passed, Jesse realized he wanted to advance further in his field. Earning his Paramedic certification would not only open doors to full-time employment but also make him a valuable dual asset to employers, combining his firefighting experience with advanced medical training.

In July 2023, Jesse came to the Sandusky GST Michigan Works! office as his contract job was coming to an end. He was eager to continue his education and secure a stable, full-time career. After applying for the WIOA program, he was approved for funding as an adult participant, allowing GST Michigan Works! to cover the full cost of his tuition.

Jesse enrolled in the Paramedic program at Tri-Hospital EMS and excelled in his training, maintaining an impressive 90% average on his coursework. Over the course of 13 months and 1,210 hours of rigorous training, Jesse remained committed to his goal. His hard work paid off on October 31, 2024, when he officially earned his Paramedic License.

Since completing his training, Jesse has been working part-time at both the Memphis Fire Department in Memphis, Michigan, and Tri-Hospital EMS. Now, he is actively pursuing full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions and has already secured multiple interviews for January.

Jesse's dedication and perseverance have brought him closer to achieving his dream of a full-time career in emergency services. Thanks to his determination — and the support of GST Michigan Works! — he is well on his way to making an even greater impact in the field he loves.

SHIFTING GEARS: HOW RANDALL TURNED HIS DREAM INTO A CAREER

Tuscola Co. - After many years of working in the food service industry, Randall found himself unemployed and knew it was time to pursue his dream job as a truck driver to better support his family. After conducting research, he discovered that GST Michigan Works! provides services to help people achieve their career goals. He met with a Career Coach at the Caro office to discuss the program and what it entailed. Following their meeting, Randall made the decision to enroll.

Through weeks of hard work and determination, Randall successfully completed the CDL program. He didn't stop there—after earning his CDL, he went on to obtain his Hazmat endorsement, opening the door to even more employment opportunities. Along the way, he received assistance with mileage reimbursements, tuition payments, and job search and resume support. Taking a leap of faith, Randall was encouraged and supported by GST Michigan Works! throughout his CDL journey.

Today, Randall works as a driver for a logistics company not far from his hometown. His job allows him to return home every night, giving him the perfect balance between providing for his family and spending quality time with them.

What began as a daunting challenge turned into a life-changing opportunity. Earning his CDL didn't just change Randall's career—it transformed his family's future. His story serves as an inspiration to his family, his Career Coach, and his peers, proving that with determination and the right resources, achieving your dreams is always possible.

Completing this class has given me peace and hope for the future of an awesome career.

Tuscola County GST [Michigan Works!] was amazing. Katherine helped me every step of the way."



A PATH TO SUCCESS: **ALLYSON'S JOURNEY FROM ASPIRATION TO ACHIEVEMENT**

Shiawassee Co. - Allyson's journey through the WIOA program is a remarkable example of dedication, perseverance, and the power of support. She first came to GST Michigan Works! on June 7, 2023, seeking tuition assistance to pursue a career in healthcare. At the time, she was working part-time at Memorial Healthcare, earning \$14.37 per hour, but she was committed to furthering her education in order to create a better future for herself and her child.

With the guidance of her case manager, Heather, Allyson quickly got to work. She completed career research assignments, conducted an informational interview, and remained diligent in meeting training requirements. Allyson also participated in workshops such as resume building and Workplace Excellence, equipping her with essential career skills.

By August 2023, her hard work paid off—her training funding was approved for an associate degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography at Baker College. GST Michigan Works! assisted with tuition costs, making her educational goals more attainable.

Throughout the next year, Allyson excelled in her studies, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and successfully passing her first board exam—a critical milestone on her path to becoming a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. In August 2024, she achieved another major accomplishment: she passed the Abdomen Board Exam and officially earned her associate degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

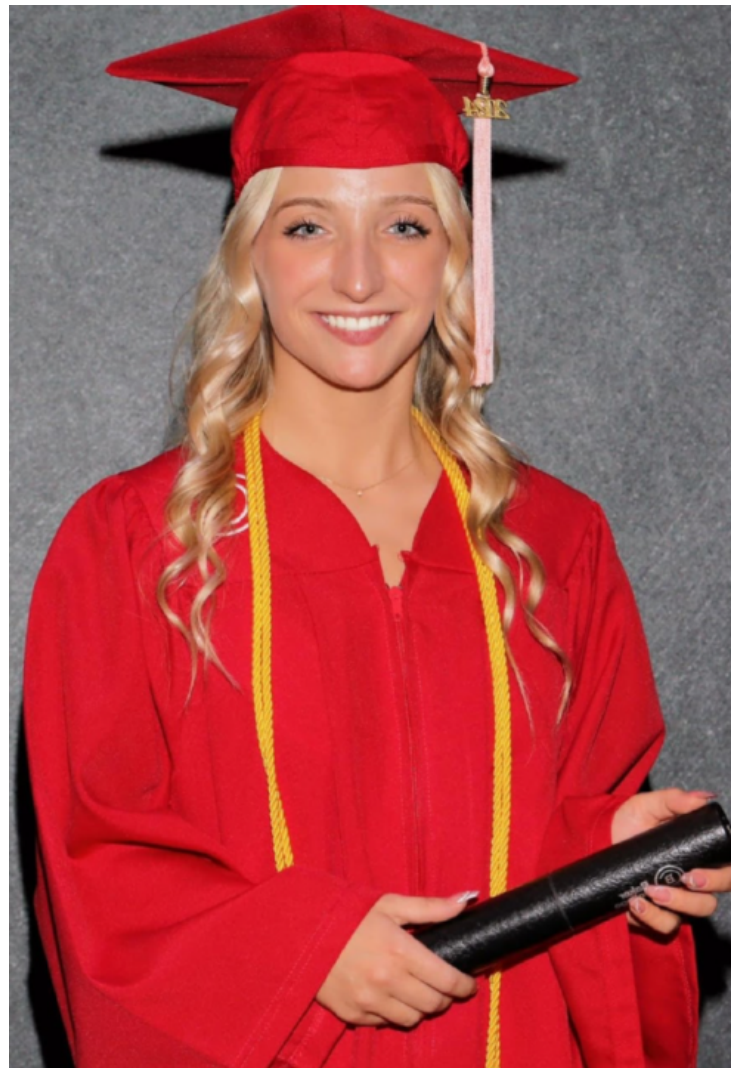
Allyson's journey did not end with graduation. She enrolled in the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program, receiving wrap-around support services to help her continue thriving in her career. Balancing work, school, and single parenthood was no easy task, but it taught her invaluable lessons in perseverance and time management.

That same month, as her child started kindergarten, Allyson reached another career milestone—securing a full-time position at Sparrow Hospital as a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. Her commitment to success was fueled not only by personal ambition but also by her desire to provide a stable and promising future for her child.



Being a single parent while balancing work and school was a significant challenge, but it taught me the value of resilience. Juggling multiple responsibilities often pushed me to my limits. However, looking back, I can proudly say that every obstacle was worth it. My journey wasn't easy, but it reinforced the lesson that with dedication and the right support, anything is possible."

Today, Allyson is completing her training at Sparrow Hospital, looking toward the future with excitement and pride. Her story is a powerful testament to what can be achieved through determination, hard work, and the support of programs like WIOA and JMG.



THE PRESERVATION OF THE ROAD

Huron Co. - Drew is a young man with ambitious goals for the road ahead. Through dedication and hard work, he climbed the ranks to become a Foreman in the landscaping industry at Elevate Outdoor Living. Recently, Drew transitioned to a position in excavation with Ozzy's Excavating, LLC. To continue advancing in this career path, he needed to obtain his CDL-A license to transport heavy equipment to various worksites.

After researching schools offering CDL-A training and their costs, Drew realized he would need financial assistance to pursue his goal. On the advice of a friend, he made an appointment with GST Michigan Works! in Bad Axe to explore his options.

When Drew arrived at the GST Michigan Works! office, he was determined and ready to take the next step in his career. He met with a Career Coach who determined he was eligible for WIOA services as an Adult for short-term training. Shortly after, Drew enrolled in the CDL-A program at Thumb CDL, LLC, located in Deckerville.

In just two months, Drew was behind the wheel of a semi-tractor trailer, gaining hands-on experience with his instructor. By the end of the third month, he successfully passed his road test, earning his CDL-A license. This credential opened new opportunities for Drew, allowing him to advance in excavation or explore other career options.

At the time of completing his training in September 2024, Drew was working part-time without benefits. However, just a month later, he accepted a full-time position with the Huron County Road Commission as an Operator. In this role, Drew drives dump trucks and works on bridge maintenance during warmer months, and in colder months, he operates snowplows to keep the roads clear and safe for travelers.

Drew loves the work he does and the career he's forging with the Road Commission. Reflecting on his journey, he expressed gratitude to GST Michigan Works! for their assistance in helping him achieve his goals.

On snowy days, as snow gently falls, the wind howls, and roads become icy and treacherous, we can all appreciate the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals like Drew. They work around the clock to ensure our roads remain safe and accessible. Thank you to Drew and his colleagues for preserving our roads and bridges and ensuring we can reach our destinations safely!





DRIVING TOWARD A NEW PRIORITY: **SHEMOI EDWARDS' JOURNEY TO SUCCESS**

Genesee Co. - Shemoy Edwards knew he wanted more from his career. His welding and production job left him feeling unfulfilled, and he dreamed of obtaining a CDL-A License to pursue a career in trucking. When he was laid off in April 2024, Shemoy saw the perfect opportunity to turn that dream into reality.

A friend recommended a Career Coach at GST Michigan Works!, who quickly recognized Shemoy's potential and helped him begin the process of enrolling in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. After researching training options, Shemoy decided on PolyService Driving School, inspired by its positive reputation.

Before beginning his training, Shemoy faced some hurdles. He needed to complete a DOT Physical and Drug Screen but was struggling financially due to unemployment. Thankfully, the WIOA program was able to cover these

expenses, ensuring he could move forward without delay.

In May 2024, Shemoy began his CDL-A training at PolyService and completed the program in July 2024. Excited to share his accomplishment, he returned to GST Michigan Works! with his completion certificate. However, he still needed to pay for his CDL License from the Secretary of State. Once again, WIOA funding was there to help.

While at GST Michigan Works!, Shemoy participated in a Resume Workshop to update his credentials and began actively searching for trucking jobs. Despite his hard work, the job search proved challenging. Many trucking companies turned him away, citing his lack of experience as a barrier.

Discouraged but determined, Shemoy stayed focused with the support of his Career Coach. She provided him with job leads and encouragement to keep going. Finally, in September 2024, Shemoy secured a full-time Residential Driver position at Priority Waste, achieving his goal of working in the trucking industry.

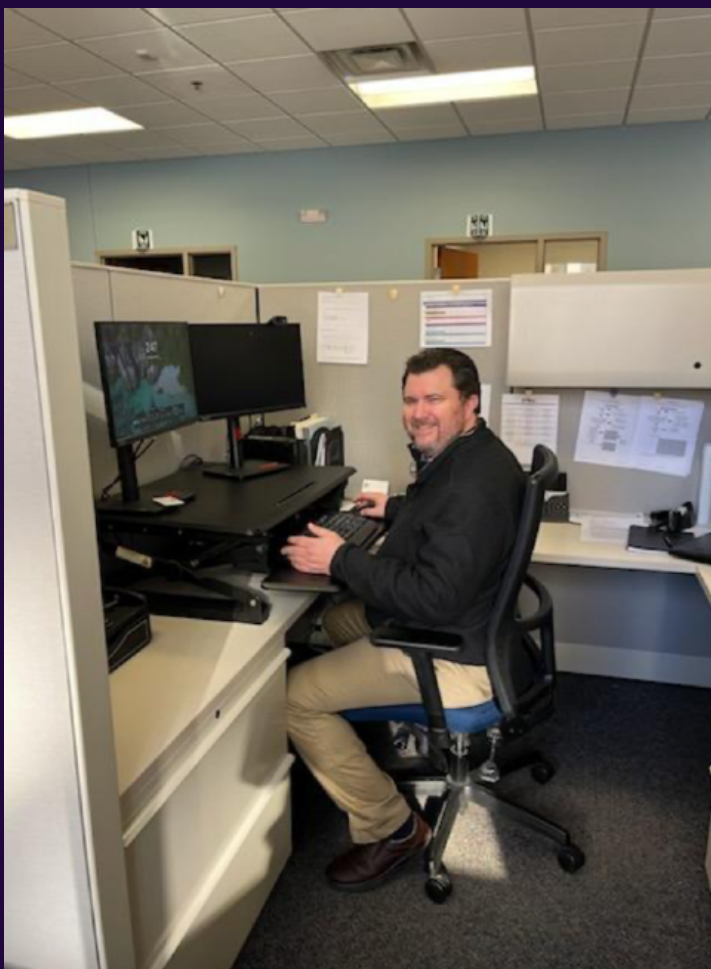
Reflecting on his journey, Shemoy expressed his gratitude:



It was challenging to stay positive with a loved one facing health problems and trucking companies turning me away. However, your support in reaching out truly helped keep my spirits up. **I'm grateful that you recognized my potential for this opportunity within your [GSTMW] program.**

SHEMOI'S STORY DEMONSTRATES HOW PERSEVERANCE AND THE RIGHT RESOURCES CAN TRANSFORM A DREAM INTO REALITY. WITH HIS CDL-A LICENSE AND A PROMISING NEW CAREER, HE IS NOW DRIVING TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

CORY'S JOURNEY TO A NEW CAREER



Shiawassee Co. - Cory had been struggling to find work since being laid off from his last job. Although he was collecting unemployment, the reduced income made it difficult to cover his family's expenses. Determined to find stable employment, he worked closely with his Career Coach to refine his resume, improve his interviewing skills, and receive guidance and encouragement throughout his job search.

During their discussions, his Career Coach recognized that Cory's professional skills and abilities might make him a great fit for a career in workforce development. Excited by the idea, Cory pursued a Career Coach position locally and landed an interview. Although he performed well, he was ultimately not selected for the role. Disappointed but not discouraged, he continued his job search.

In late December, a Career Coach position opened at Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! in Saginaw through SVRC Industries, Inc. His Career Coach encouraged him to apply, urging him to give it one more try. Eager for the opportunity after coming so close in his previous interview, Cory submitted his application. His persistence paid off when the local manager of GST Michigan Works! in Shiawassee County—who had interviewed him for the local role—personally recommended him to the hiring manager in Saginaw. This strong reference helped Cory secure an interview, and he was officially offered the position.

On January 6, 2025, Cory started his new role, marking a

fresh start for the new year. Since joining the team, he has been warmly welcomed by his coworkers, who have graciously supported him through training. Reflecting on his experience so far, Cory shared, "I have never worked with nicer people. They are all so friendly and helpful." He feels confident that he will truly enjoy this position, especially the opportunity to help others find employment—just as he was helped.

While he is pleased with his new job, Cory acknowledges that it hasn't come without some challenges. Having never worked in this field of employment, he is learning a lot through hands-on experience. Despite this, he has embraced the process, recognizing that it takes time to master each new responsibility. He is grateful for the opportunity and looks forward to growing in his role.

CORY'S JOURNEY IS A TESTAMENT TO RESILIENCE, PERSISTENCE, AND THE POWER OF SUPPORT. WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS CAREER COACH AND THE RECOMMENDATION HE RECEIVED, HE HAS FOUND A NEW PATH—ONE THAT ALLOWS HIM TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON OTHERS.

A JOURNEY OF PERSEVERANCE: TONY'S PATH TO SUCCESS



Family Literacy Center - At GST Michigan Works! and the Family Literacy Center, we believe in the power of education and support to transform lives. Tony, a determined 33-year-old, is a shining example of how dedication and the right resources can open doors to a brighter future.

Tony came to GST Michigan Works! seeking help in obtaining his GED. Like many, he faced challenges—dyslexia, leaving school as a junior, early fatherhood, and a string of minimum-wage jobs. However, his determination to succeed never wavered.

In May 2024, Tony began tutoring with the Family Literacy Center. His initial CASAS test scores indicated that, with commitment, he had the potential to pass all four GED tests in just a few months. He wasted no time, taking three GED Ready tests and scoring high enough to predict success in two subjects. He passed one GED test but fell short on the other two. Undeterred, he vowed to study harder and try again.

However, life presented another hurdle. In June, Tony took on a demanding job that made it difficult to continue his studies, causing him to put his GED on hold. Throughout the summer, his tutor at the Family Literacy Center sent him encouraging messages, reminding him of his potential and that support would always be there when he was ready to continue his journey.

At the end of August, Tony found a job that allowed him to dedicate Thursdays to tutoring. He returned, studied hard, retook his failed tests, and passed. Now, only the challenging math test stood between him and his GED.

Recognizing his career aspirations, his tutor introduced him to GST Michigan Works! Career Coach Holly. She

guided him through free training opportunities and helped him start the enrollment process for welding training at Sanilac Career Center. With Holly and his tutor cheering him on, Tony studied diligently for his final GED test. On September 5th, he passed—officially earning his GED and unlocking new opportunities.

With Holly's support, Tony enrolled in the welding program at Sanilac Career Center on September 16th. Just three months later, on December 10th, he earned his Certificate of Training as a Certified Welder. He quickly secured a job in Romeo, putting his new skills to work. But Tony isn't stopping there, he has shared with Holly his dream of becoming a welding instructor.

Tony's story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the invaluable support of the Family Literacy Center and GST Michigan Works! His journey proves that when individuals have access to education, guidance, and encouragement, they can achieve incredible things.

When Tony visited in September, he hugged his tutor and said, "I couldn't have done it without you." His tutor replied, "You could have." Tony smiled and said, "Yes, but I wouldn't have."

At GST Michigan Works! and the Family Literacy Center, we believe in our students, just as we believe in Tony. His success is our success, and we couldn't be prouder.



ADEN'S JOURNEY: STEPPING OUTSIDE HIS COMFORT ZONE

Aden joined the JMG summer program as a quiet and reserved participant, engaging with peers when prompted. Over time, he has grown more comfortable and has even taken on a leadership role by joining the Career Association Leadership.

With a passion for photography, Aden has been actively exploring his career aspirations through hands-on experience at Alternative Photography. He continues to push himself beyond his comfort zone—even conquering the Rock Wall on Leadership Day, despite his fear of heights. He is not only developing his technical skills but also working on his social confidence and taking healthy risks.

When Aden learned that a photographer wanted to meet with him, he took the initiative to prepare. Before he was offered a chance to practice his skills, he requested a mock interview, which was conducted over Zoom to help him feel more confident. His proactive approach was truly impressive!

Aden's journey highlights his commitment to personal and professional growth, proving that stepping outside of one's comfort zone can lead to incredible opportunities.



Genesee Co. - A'laye is a current junior at Carman-Ainsworth HS and attended the JMG Summer program with high enthusiasm and a great work ethic. She would like to become a nurse and is dual enrolled at her school to gain her CNA when she graduates. Our JMG/WIOA program was able to secure a work experience opportunity for A'laye at Hurley Hospital. She mainly works in the Pediatric unit, offering young patients play time and ensuring all toys are properly disinfected. She is excited about working in a hospital environment and recognizes the importance of bringing play to young patients. A bonus is that our program can pay her for her work at Hurley, but A'laye was more excited about the experience!

On one of A'laye's shifts, there were many children in quarantine, and therefore could not play. She called the volunteer coordinator, Lydia, to see if there was anything in particular she could do for her. She helped the nurses and the staff at the welcome desk. Lydia said ***"That made a really great impression on me. Most kids would have just gotten out their phones, but she took the initiative to find ways to be helpful."***

JOBS *for* MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES



Lana Brewer is making great strides toward becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She recently earned her CPR certification and is excelling in CNA training while forming meaningful friendships with classmates. Alongside her studies, she's demonstrating her strong work ethic in her new role at Taco Bell. **Lana's dedication is inspiring, and we can't wait to see what she achieves next!"**

SHE DID IT! *LANA JMG GED GRADUATE*

On December 4, 2024, the first step of her vision board was completed. Congratulations to Lana for achieving an incredible milestone: completing her GED in just three weeks!

She successfully passed:

Math 148

SS 148

RLA 162

Science 155

This accomplishment is even more impressive as Lana worked tirelessly while simultaneously studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).





Student SUCCESS STORIES

OLIVIA SUCCESS STORY



Olivia is an Out-of-School Youth participant from the Greater Flint Health Coalition's Flint Healthcare Employment Opportunities (FHEO) program, a GST Michigan Works! service provider. Olivia shared that after taking an anatomy course and participating in healthcare job shadowing, she was interested in pursuing a career in healthcare

Before beginning her summer work experience, McKenna completed ten days of Life Skills and Healthcare Career Exploration training hosted by Flint Strive. Olivia shared that this training was an amazing experience that gave her the tools to succeed professionally. She stated that she enjoyed the structured environment and having a thought-provoking "quote of the day". Olivia stated, "Strive points you in the right direction to succeed, you just have to do the work". Olivia earned a \$550 stipend for successful

completion of Life Skill and Healthcare Career Exploration training.

In July 2024, Olivia began Certified Nurse Assistant training at Charter Healthcare Training Center. The FHEO Program supported Olivia financially by funding the cost of tuition, including textbooks, uniform and other required supplies. She shared that she enjoyed the hands-on learning and small classroom side. In August 2024, Olivia successfully graduated from the program and earned her state certification, which earned her \$100 stipend from the FHEO Program.

Olivia is currently employed with Regency of Grand Blanc as a Certified Nurse Assistant. She shared that the time management skills she learned at Flint Strive gave her the discipline to accept an early morning shift that she usually would not be interested in. She said she enjoys her new position and providing care to the residents. Olivia is currently enrolled at Mott Community College completing pre-requisite courses for the nursing program and intends to be a Registered Nurse in the near future.



Student SUCCESS STORIES

ALEXANDRA SUCCESS STORY



Alexandra is an Adult participant from the Flint Healthcare Employment Opportunities (FHEO) Program, a GST Michigan Works! service provider. Alexandra had prior experience in the healthcare field when she learned about the educational opportunities available through the FHEO Program. She decided it was time to advance her career and earn a credential.

Before healthcare training, Alexandra completed 120 hours of Life Skills and Healthcare Career Exploration training hosted by Flint Strive. Alexandra shared that her

time with Flint Strive had a rocky beginning as she wasn't fully prepared for the experience. She stated, "The staff understood that I was making an effort. They showed me what a professional environment was supposed to be like and not to settle for anything less."

Alexandra entered Medical Assistant training at Mott Workforce Development in September 2023. Alexandra stated she was interested in medical assisting because she would like to be the first face a patient sees when they enter a doctor's office. She shared that she would enjoy providing comfort, care, and insight to best advocate for others. The FHEO Program paid for the cost of Alexandra's tuition as well as scrubs for Alexandra's clinical experience. Alexandra shared that her training experience prepared her for employment and that she was encouraged by others to further her education in the future. Alex successfully completed training in April 2024 and began preparing to take her Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) exam. Alexandra successfully passed the exam and expressed gratitude to the FHEO Program, stating, "There was a mix up with the transcripts and without assistance I would not have gotten the change to take the test." Additionally, the FHEO Program covered the cost of the exam.

Alexandra is currently employed at Michigan Eye Institute as a Medical Assistant. she says she loves her job, "They made sure that I was comfortable before I was able to go out on my own. They make learning fun and it's a great place to work." Alexandra says that she has big goals she wants to accomplish, "My next steps are to get my associate degree in nursing." Alexandra also shared,

**I CAN'T THANK FHEO AND
STRIVE ENOUGH FOR ALL
THEY HELPED ME ACHIEVE."**

EMPLOYER SUCCESS STORIES

ALLIED INDUSTRIAL GROUP

BUILDING WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Genesee Co. - Allied Industrial Group (AIG) began partnering with GST Michigan Works! in February 2023, following an introduction by Fenton Business Solutions Professional, Roy. Since then, the company has made tremendous strides in workforce development, particularly through the Going PRO Talent Fund program.

AIG first applied for the Going PRO Talent Fund in the spring of 2023. While their initial application did not result in an award, the experience proved invaluable. Encouraged by GST Michigan Works! and equipped with expert guidance, AIG was better prepared for future opportunities.

In November 2023, AIG applied for the FY24 Cycle 1 of the Going PRO Talent Fund, and this time, the company celebrated success: AIG was awarded funding!

GST Michigan Works! expertise and support played a critical role, from navigating the application process to connecting AIG with Michigan-based training providers. These partnerships elevated AIG's workforce and supported local vendors, amplifying the economic impact.

"Our partnership with GST Michigan Works! has been invaluable. Their deep understanding of our business and goals combined with their knowledge of the process and training vendors has been a key factor in our success," shared Michele Reynolds, Office Coordinator at Allied Industrial Group.

On January 23, 2025, Roy delivered a reimbursement



check to AIG totaling \$33,134 for employee training completed in 2024.

The training funded by the Going PRO Talent Fund has been a game-changer for AIG employees. For some, it provided formal vendor training that enhanced their knowledge, while for others, particularly veteran employees, it clarified the reasoning behind processes they had been performing for years. Engineering team members gained deeper insights into software features, enabling faster and higher-quality designs.

Employees returned from training sessions energized, requesting additional advanced courses and bringing innovative ideas back to their roles. These developments have created a ripple effect creating enhanced workplace morale and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

"This is a benefit we can offer to our employees while also increasing our competitiveness in the marketplace," said Michele. "Employees who feel valued by an employer willing to invest in their growth are more likely to stay, which boosts retention and reduces hiring and training costs. It also differentiates us from other companies by demonstrating to customers the professionalism and proficiency of our workforce."



The impact is especially evident in AIG's welding and manufacturing teams. In today's competitive market, customers want partners they can trust to deliver quality products on time. A well-trained workforce builds that confidence and attracts projects, particularly when budgets are tight.

"Since we started working with GST Michigan Works! in February 2023, we've come a long way," Michele Reynolds reflected. "We are now on our third cycle of the Going PRO Talent Fund. Our first attempt was a learning experience, but the GST Michigan Works! team encouraged and guided us, resulting in successful awards for 2024 and 2025.



Their knowledge of the process and training vendors has been invaluable. GST Michigan Works! took the time to truly understand our business and goals, which is what makes this partnership so effective. **Additionally, we've developed relationships with other Michigan-based training providers, benefiting both Allied and those vendors.**

With a skilled workforce, a strong partnership with GST Michigan Works!, and a commitment to excellence, Allied Industrial Group is poised to continue its growth and success, setting an example of how strategic investments in talent can benefit employees, businesses, and the broader community.

INTEGRITY

GAIN SKILLS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

Tuscola Co. - Founded in 2021, Integrity Sales & Service specializes in welding, machining, fabricating, painting, and powder coating. The company partnered with DYNA Products, a long-time partner of GST Michigan Works!, to produce the DYNA-Cut Shears. These specialized shears are used to cut metal roofing, an essential product for the construction industry. Integrity Sales & Service's top priority is delivering high-quality products to its customers.

In order to continue to provide those high-quality products, enhancing the skills of their employees, particularly in welding, became a key focus. The company contacted Business Services at the Caro office of GST Michigan Works! to see if funding was available to offset the company's costs for training. After some discussion, it was determined that incumbent worker funding would be a great source of assistance for the company. Allowing companies to maintain a skilled workforce to remain competitive is a hallmark of the program. Five employees were trained in MIG Welding and found the training incredibly beneficial.

Upon receiving the welding training, one employee was empowered to further his education with help from GST Michigan Works! He had dropped out of school before receiving his high school diploma. He began attending tutoring sessions and pre-tested for the GED. He plans to take the official test and obtain his GED very soon.



MILLER INDUSTRIES

LAUNCHING NEW USDOL APPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS *IN FENTON*



Genesee Co. - Miller Industries, a family-operated co-leader in custom steel fabrication, air supply systems, modular mechanical and electrical systems, and structural steel is excited to announce the launch of two new United States Department of Labor (USDOL) approved apprenticeship programs. These programs will provide rigorous training for aspiring electricians and welder-fitters, enhancing workforce development in our community and beyond.

The Electrician Apprenticeship Program will equip employees with the skills to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures in accordance with relevant codes. Spanning four years, this program includes 615 hours of dedicated classroom training at Mott Community College and 8,000 hours on the job (4 years).

Similarly, the Welder-Fitter Apprenticeship Program will focus on developing expertise in hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand-soldering, and brazing equipment. Employees will learn essential techniques for welding and joining metal components, ensuring high-quality fabrication. This four-year program consists of 600 classroom training hours at Mott Community College and 8,000 hours on the job as well.

"I felt the best way to get an education and provide better workmanship was through the apprenticeship program,"

said Hunter Fifield, current electrical apprentice. He is three years into the program and has enjoyed the variety of work he gets to do at Miller Industries.

As Miller Industries continues to see tremendous growth, they will be opening more apprenticeships for both welding and electrical programs in 2025.



*Our apprenticeship programs reflect our commitment to fostering a skilled workforce and supporting the local economy. **We believe these opportunities will not only benefit our company but also empower individuals to build rewarding careers in growing industries.***

Chad Miller, Co-CEO of Miller Industries.

Located in Fenton, Miller Industries was founded in July 2014 and serves diverse industries across North America. Their expertise includes modular mechanical systems, modular electrical systems, air handlers, conveyor systems, structural steel projects, modular substations, stairs and platforms, baggage, package handling systems, and other powder-coated metal products. Their commitment to quality and customer satisfaction has earned them a reputation as a trusted provider for automotive, industrial, and healthcare customers worldwide. Their team is committed to innovation, sustainability, and the highest standards of quality in every project.



GEMINI PLASTICS

STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE WITH GOING PRO TALENT FUND

Huron Co. - Gemini Plastics, a manufacturer in the automotive industry, is committed to developing talent from within to ensure long-term success. Located in a rural area with an aging workforce, the company recognized the need to train new supervisors and support the development of Tool & Die Apprentices to sustain its operations and remain competitive.

GST Michigan Works! Business Solutions Professional, Deb, and Gemini's Human Resources Generalist, Denise, met to discuss the best funding options for Gemini. It was determined that the Going PRO Talent Fund would be an ideal resource to assist with training costs. A successful application was submitted, and Gemini Plastics was awarded \$25,300 to support multiple workforce development initiatives.

Through this funding, three Tool & Die Apprentices attended training at Delta College and received on-the-job training to further their hands-on experience. Twelve supervisors participated in Achieving Supervisory Excellence training, earning Certificates of Completion to enhance their leadership and management skills. Five new operators received on-the-job training, equipping them with the skills needed to excel in their roles.

The impact of this training was felt across all levels of the company. Wayne, the Production Manager, shared that the training helped him set and achieve personal career advancement goals. Kenny, Tool & Die Apprentice/Supervisor, expressed that without the training and funding, he wouldn't have been able to advance to a supervisory role or continue working toward his Journeyman certification in Tool & Die. Denise highlighted that the training not only provided employees with essential skills but also boosted company morale, improved efficiency in tool building, and enhanced overall operational productivity.

Balancing full-time work with apprenticeship training can be challenging, especially in a rural area without nearby

training facilities. However, with the support of GST Michigan Works! and the Going PRO Talent Fund, Gemini Plastics continues to invest in its employees, strengthen its workforce, and secure a skilled team for the future.



SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER

A BEACON OF GROWTH & RESILIENCE

Genesee Co. - Founded in 2009 by Annette Hughes, Sunny Patch Learning Center has long been a cornerstone of early childhood education. What started as a single-location center has now flourished into a two-location institution, offering expanded programs like preschool education to ensure children receive a strong start.

This year has been a defining chapter for Sunny Patch, marked by growth, innovation, and resilience. While the journey has been challenging, the center has emerged stronger, thanks to a clear vision and collaborative partnerships.

A pivotal factor in Sunny Patch's success has been its partnership with GST Michigan Works! Through this collaboration, the center launched an apprenticeship program to invest in staff development. This initiative enables employees to hone their skills and advance their careers in early childhood education while contributing to the center's excellence.

Sunny Patch also benefited from GST Michigan Works! On-the-Job Training Program, which provides reimbursement for onboarding new employees. Utilizing this program, the center secured over \$4,000 in funding, helping them build a well-trained and dedicated workforce.

Sunny Patch's efforts extend beyond education. The center plays a vital role in strengthening the local community. These contributions were recognized when Sunny Patch earned the Minority-Owned Business Award at the prestigious Art of Achievement Awards in Flint. Hosted by the Flint & Genesee Group, the event celebrates businesses and leaders who make meaningful impacts. This award highlights Sunny Patch's commitment to providing top-notch education while fostering economic growth and opportunity.

Sunny Patch Learning Center's journey is a testament to the power of strategic collaboration, innovative programs, and unwavering dedication. With its sights set on continued expansion and impact, the center is poised to make an even greater difference in the lives of children, educators, and the broader community.

***“One child, one educator,
one partnership at a time.”***

Sunny Patch continues to redefine early childhood education as a platform for growth and empowerment.



STONEGATE HEALTH CAMPUS

CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL JOB SEEKERS

Lapeer Co. - Stonegate Health Campus, a senior living and long-term healthcare provider in Lapeer is navigating the ongoing challenge of staffing shortages in the healthcare industry. Recognizing the need to connect with qualified job seekers, Stonegate partnered with GST Michigan Works! to host a hiring event aimed at attracting new talent.

To maximize the event's reach, GST Michigan Works! distributed flyers to three local training facilities offering CNA programs, inviting students to explore employment opportunities with Stonegate. The event saw participation from 10 job seekers, leading to the immediate hiring of two individuals.

By hosting the event at the GST Michigan Works! Lapeer office, Stonegate Health Campus not only increased its visibility as an employer but provided a direct pathway for newly trained healthcare professionals to enter the workforce. While hiring events may not always yield immediate placements, they create lasting connections that contribute to future employment opportunities—demonstrating the long-term impact of collaboration between employers and GST Michigan Works!



THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

Shiawassee Co. - As Business Solutions Professionals (BSPs) at GST Michigan Works!, the primary focus is to engage with business leaders, owners, and HR managers to match job seekers with talent needs and to upskill current employees. This is done in different ways, which include On-the-Job-Training (OJT) funds for new hires that need extra training to get fully comfortable performing their position, the Going PRO Talent Fund for incumbent workers and new hires, and other training funding, among other options available to local employers.

Another large part of the job is to be present in the region and network with others to share information about the services offered through GST Michigan Works! and how the business can benefit.

In Shiawassee County, much of this networking is done through events and meetings in partnership with The Shiawassee Chamber of Commerce, Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership (SEDP), and Shiawassee County. Many new contacts are made and

information about potential new businesses coming into the county is often shared, as well. The opportunity to network with leaders of local non-profits, schools, and area decision-makers makes these events invaluable. Word of mouth and personal testimony are vital to earning the trust of businesses and community partners. Many of those people reach out to GST Michigan Works! because of information they heard at a networking event.

A great example of one of these networking events is pictured above at a Shiawassee Chamber of Commerce "Chamber AM" meeting at the Owosso Armory in December.

ACCELERATING UPSKILLING AND WORKFORCE EXPANSION



Brakes, can focus on the talent they need, while simultaneously offering individuals opportunities for career advancement and long-term job security.

Rassini Brakes received an award through the FY24 Cycle 1 Going PRO Talent Fund, allowing them to upskill 23 current employees in a variety of training programs, including Value Stream Mapping, Leadership, AIAG Core Tools, and others. Their investment of \$59,200 in training their incumbent employees and new hires, not only enhanced the skills of those employees but also improved operational efficiency and fostered a culture of continuous improvement within the organization. Additionally, Rassini was able to forecast 20 new hires for 2024, ensuring that the company is prepared to meet the growing demand for its products while creating new employment opportunities in the community. By strengthening the workforce through both upskilling and new hiring, Rassini is positioning itself for long-term growth and success in an increasingly competitive industry. This initiative-taking approach to workforce development also helps ensure the company remains at the forefront of industry standards and innovations, contributing to the overall economic vitality of the region.

This partnership strengthens the regional economy, supports business growth, and helps to build a more resilient, adaptable workforce in the region and across the state. Rassini Brakes and other local employers can continue to thrive in a competitive global marketplace by focusing on targeted upskilling initiatives.

Genesee Co. - Rassini Brakes is a lead designer and manufacturer of suspension and brake components for the global automotive industry, focused on original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). Rassini Brakes has experienced accelerated growth over the past 20 years.

From a workforce development perspective, Rassini Brakes' decision to leverage the Going PRO Talent Fund underscores the importance of partnerships between businesses, educational institutions, and workforce development organizations like GST Michigan Works! By working collaboratively to identify skill gaps and create tailored training solutions, companies, such as Rassini

THUMB PLASTICS INVESTS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH GOING PRO TALENT FUND QUALITY CHILDCARE AND

THUMB PLASTICS

Huron Co. - Thumb Plastics, a leading manufacturer of automotive parts, lawn and garden components, and other consumer products, understands the importance of staying ahead in a rapidly evolving industry. With changing technology and upcoming retirements, the company recognized the need to invest in employee training to remain competitive and ensure a skilled workforce for the future.

After meeting with GST Michigan Works! Business Solutions Professional Deb, it was determined that the Going PRO Talent Fund would be the best fit to address their training needs. Additionally, Thumb Plastics leveraged the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program to support the development of a current apprentice.

Through the Going PRO Talent Fund, Thumb Plastics was able to provide specialized technical training to four employees in DC & AC Circuits, Wiring Diagrams, Hydraulic and Pneumatic Controls, and Control Diagrams & Troubleshooting at Baker College. This training enhanced their ability to maintain and repair equipment, ensuring operational efficiency.

In addition, three employees participated in Project Management for the Non-Project Manager training at Baker College. This program equipped them with skills to better allocate resources, optimize team strengths, and drive successful project outcomes—ultimately strengthening the company's leadership and organizational effectiveness.

The impact of these training programs extends beyond skill-building. Employees gained new insights and ideas to improve processes and productivity, fostering a culture of engagement and innovation. When employees feel empowered to contribute fresh perspectives, they take greater ownership of their roles, creating a more motivated and dynamic workforce.

While it can be challenging to manage workloads when employees are away for training, the long-term benefits far outweigh the short-term adjustments. Investing in

workforce development ensures that Thumb Plastics remains competitive, resilient, and prepared for the future.

GST Michigan Works! is proud to support companies like Thumb Plastics in building a skilled workforce, strengthening businesses, and driving economic growth in the region.



THUMB COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AND GST MICHIGAN WORKS! PARTNER WITH THUMB AREA HEALTH SECTOR EMPLOYERS TO STRENGTHEN RURAL HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE



Halbfleisch-Lezell from LEO also attended to provide guidance and ensure alignment with statewide strategic workforce development goals.

The event brought together a strong group of employers, educators, and workforce development professionals reinforcing the resources and support available to strengthen healthcare careers and services in our rural communities.

Since July of 2023, Thumb Community Health Partnership (TCHP) and GST Michigan Works! have worked closely with a dedicated partnership of healthcare employers committed to addressing critical workforce challenges in the healthcare industry. The health and human services sector in the predominantly rural Thumb region, including Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties, faces significant obstacles, such as limited local training and education programs, difficulties in recruiting healthcare professionals to rural areas, and barriers to accessing training.

In December of 2024, the collaborative members met at the GST Michigan Works! office in Marlette to highlight progress and continue planning. Rey Guzman and Kandy





The collaborative received funding from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) to expand its efforts. The collaborative objectives include:

- Educating young students about career opportunities in health and human services
- Providing upskilling opportunities for current employees in rural healthcare settings
- Encouraging post-secondary institutions to offer training programs within the region
- Raising public awareness of healthcare career opportunities



KEY PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED:

Kay Balcer and Kari Granz (Thumb Community Health Partnership) – Budget review, updates on ELC activities, and progress in the TPM process.

Dr. Carman Turkelson, DNP, RN, and Dr. Megan Keiser, DNP, RN (Project Directors, University of Michigan-Flint) – Overview of the Educates Rural Nurses Program.

Theresa Hessling – Summary of training programs offered at the Huron Area Technical Center.

Hollice Londry (Aspire Rural Health System) & Yvonne Prill (Scheurer Health) – Updates on the success of their apprenticeship programs and how GST Michigan Works! streamlined the process.

Shannon Schultz & Crissy Barrios – Personal experiences with training made possible through grant funding.

6 KEY BENEFITS OF A HIGH SCHOOL JOB

YOU'LL EARN MONEY - Even if you don't work a lot of hours, it will add up over time

YOU'LL LEARN NEW SKILLS - You are guaranteed to pick up skills you didn't have before.

YOU'LL GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE - If you start learning the skills to be a good employee in high school, you'll set yourself up to be an outstanding employee later.

YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF CAREER YOU WANT - The best way to figure out what you want to do is try different jobs out.

YOU'LL MEET NEW PEOPLE - It is a great way to expand your social circle and learn about different types of people.

YOU'LL GAIN INDEPENDENCE - You'll be responsible for taking care of your job duties.

Succeeding at a job and earning money can help you gain a lot of independence and self-confidence, and its a great way to help prepare you for the future.

Source: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/teen-jobs-benefits>

LEARN & EARN

JANUARY 2025 | VOL. 23 ISSUE 2

Ethan is a computer assistant at 10 Computers Repair and More in Owosso. Ethan dismantles computers and helps organize computer parts.



STUDENT REMINDER: NO SCHOOL = NO WORK

If there is a snow day, you must call your worksite supervisor and let them know you won't be at work.

Having a Job in High School Has More Benefits Than Just a Paycheck



Shiawassee
Regional Education Service District

SHIAWASSEE RESD | 1025 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET | CORUNNA, MI 48817
t 989.743.3471 | f 989.743. 9601 | www.sread.org

LEARN & EARN

JANUARY 2025 | VOL. 23 ISSUE 2

As a high school senior in Corunna, Ian had ambition but needed some assistance getting started on the path to success. "I wanted to get a head start on working and getting experience," he said. "WIOA was very helpful. I got experience talking with customers, developed skills, and it helped me get a job."

Through the Shiawassee RESD's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth employment program, Ian began a work experience at Family Farm & Home while still attending school. With a strong background in agriculture and experience raising animals, Ian was an excellent fit for the Corunna store. "I did not know what to expect when I started at Family Farm & Home," Ian stated, "but everyone was very helpful, and it got easier with time."

His supervisors were impressed with the positive impact Ian had on the store. He was offered a stock position at Family Farm & Home after graduation. In the 2 1/2 years since leaving high school, Ian has moved to a full-time Team Leader Management position. As Team Leader, he has traveled for new product training and trade shows. Ian has even made new product recommendations for the store.

Ian describes his WIOA journey as "a good experience." After graduation, Ian supported the WIOA program by mentoring younger students during their work experiences at Family Farm & Home. This program is very thankful for our local businesses, like Family Farm & Home, and individuals like Ian, who are willing to give back and support our local youth.



WIOA WAS VERY HELPFUL. I GOT EXPERIENCE TALKING WITH CUSTOMERS, DEVELOPED SKILLS, AND IT HELPED ME GET A JOB."

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Maliki has been helping customers and stocking shelves at the Family Farm & Home in Corunna.



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