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Capital Area Michigan Works receives \$4.4 million from US Labor Department to deploy technical skills training in Lansing

LANSING, Mich.—The U.S. Department of Labor announced last week that Capital Area Michigan Works! (CAMW) was one of 20 states and the only workforce development agency in Michigan to receive funding under the Technical Skills Training Grant Competition. The announcement comes with a check for \$4.4 million dollars.

The funding will provide education, training and job placement assistance related to high-growth fields in which employers are currently using the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program to hire foreign workers, such as advanced manufacturing, energy, health care and information technology. Populations to be served include high school students, those with outdated IT skills, as well as unemployed and underemployed individuals

Capital Area Michigan Works! submitted a grant application earlier this year, for approval to implement the "Tech Knowledge E-Pathways" project. The project will benefit Greater Lansing's current and future workforce in information technology related occupations by providing several options for individuals to participate in technical skills training and develop the knowledge needed to gain entry into and succeed in the local IT industry. Now that the funding is a reality, programming can be ramped up for deployment.

"The "E" in this "E-Pathways" project represents the potential "education" and "employment" pathways," said Chris Knapp, Executive Director of the Capital



that includes shorter-term technical skills training, more advanced certification training, the opportunity to pursue a two-year computer programmer analyst or computer science associate degree, and existing Computer Science Bachelors degree programs at MSU and other 4-year institutions.”

Capital Area Michigan Works CEO Doug Stites added, “We have companies today that cannot find talent with the technical skills needed to fill jobs right now.” This program enables us to put people back to work, or provides them with the opportunity to develop new skills for key jobs with great companies that are critical to the growth of our region's economy.”

Key Partners involved in the success of the project in addition to CAMW! and the Capital Area IT Council include Lansing Community College, A.J. Boggs & Company, Gravity Works Design & Development, Jadian Enterprises, Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA), Providence Consulting, Spartan Internet Consulting, Strategic Products & Services, TechSmith Corporation, Lansing Economic Area Partnership and Prima Civitas Foundation.



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