



Lakeshore Employer Resource Network of Mason County

Newsletter

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Build Your Skills with Free Training for Success

Have you thought about improving your skills and knowledge to be eligible for better positions and pay? Employer Resource Networks may offer training opportunities at your worksite and in your community. By building your personal and employment skills, they help you grow within your company.

Career-related training offerings.

Your Success Coach program partners with organizations throughout the community to offer classes such as:

- ◆ Basic computer skills
- ◆ Computer applications
- ◆ English as a second language (ESL)
- ◆ GED classes
- ◆ Leadership and problem solving
- ◆ Math proficiency
- ◆ Technical training

Technical Training

Success. Several years ago, Jim Wolter had completed cabinet making and millwork training, but couldn't find a job during the recession. In August

2016, Jim was hired by Oceana Foods (an employer member of TERN Oceana County) in Shelby, Michigan after completing Food Processing Tech Training. He learned essential skills such as time management and attendance, quality and quantity of work, problem solving and organizational skills. Jim, pictured below, enjoyed



the Applied Technology courses which included thermal and fluid dynamics and hydraulics. His favorite part of training was the hands on training at Starting Block where he learned sanitation skills and bottle filling. He earned his Forklift Certification, Food Safety Certification, and National Career Readiness Certification. Joe Hall, Jim's supervisor, describes Jim as a model employee. "Jim is honest,

hardworking, and has excellent attendance," said Joe. "He puts a lot of pride in his work and gets along well with other employees."

Program origins.

Food Processing Tech Training, a partnership between Michigan Career Technical Institute, Michigan Works! West Central, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Department of Health and Human Services, West Shore ESD, Starting Block Inc, and TERN-Oceana County, was launched in June 2016. Six students enrolled and all completed the six week classroom

program, followed by 13 weeks of paid on the job training.

Employer support.

"We are greatly appreciative of this on the job training process that bridges the gap between job seekers eager to learn new skills and employers who are seeking reliable and motivated workers," said Jessica Pranger, Office Manager at Oceana Foods. The Keys to

Lakeshore Employer Resource Network of Mason County

Our goal...
Creating access and resources for employee success at work and in life. We partner with employees who work for:

Member Companies

- ◆ Brill
- ◆ Change Parts
- ◆ FloraCraft
- ◆ Great Lakes Castings
- ◆ Hemlock Golf Club
- ◆ Kaines
- ◆ Ludington Daily News
- ◆ Metalworks, Inc.
- ◆ Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital
- ◆ Walmart of Ludington
- ◆ West Shore Bank
- ◆ Western Land Services
- ◆ Whitehall Industries

Success Program has helped Oceana Foods reach potential employees who have had the opportunity to be trained in a food processing environment." Feel free to contact your Success Coach today to learn about free training opportunities available through your company or within the community. They are ready to help assist you with any need!

Source: ERN-MI

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Nicole@MasonCountyUW.org

Brill: Thursday

(2nd & 4th weeks): 8:30AM-11:00AM

Change Parts: Tuesday

(2nd & 4th weeks): 8:15AM-11:00AM

FloraCraft: Wednesday

8:15AM-11:00AM

Great Lakes Castings: Tuesday

12:00PM-3:00PM: Great Lakes Castings

Hemlock Golf Club: By appointment

Kaines: Friday: 12:30PM-2:30PM

Ludington Daily News: Thursday

12:00PM-2:00PM

Metalworks, Inc: Wednesday

12:15PM-4:00PM

Spectrum Health Ludington

Hospital: Friday 8:15AM-11:00AM

Walmart of Ludington: Monday

11:30AM-1:30PM

West Shore Bank: Tuesday

8:15AM-11:00AM

Western Land Services: Monday

AM/PM times alternate every other week
8:15AM-11:00AM/1:45PM-4:00PM

Whitehall Industries: Monday

AM/PM times alternate every other week
8:15AM-11:00AM/1:45PM-4:00PM

Walk-in Welcome

Call, email or text for appointments.
Off-site meeting locations available.
Request additional times if needed.

Philosopher's Square

"You leave old habits behind by starting out with the thought, 'I release the need for this in my life'."

- Dr. Wayne Dyer

Success Coach Locates After-School Care

Parents often find it difficult to locate quality childcare with costs that can eat up to 36% of a low-income family's monthly budget. Both of these issues are challenges that can create stress and jeopardize an employee's job

The challenge. Success Coach, **Kelli Adams (Southwest Michigan ERN)**, had an employee visit her with a need to find after-school care. She had recently been granted custody of her young sibling. As a full-time employee, she was having a difficult time calling for information and making the arrangements because most of the places were closed before she got out of work.



The solution. Kelli took the reins, researching many programs throughout the community. She found a cost efficient resource that would not only accept the sibling into the program, but would also provide transportation from the sibling's school. Kelli prepared the application so that it would be ready to submit. The employee was incredibly grateful for all the time her Success Coach had spent doing research and making the calls. Relieving this burden off her shoulders during a time of stressful changes made it possible to concentrate on her job knowing her sibling was taken care of by responsible caregivers.

Sources: *ERN MI; Center for American Progress*

Employee Utilizes Free Quit Smoking Resources

According to a study published in the Journal Health Services Research, quitting smoking can add years to your life - even if you've been a long time smoker. After 15 years of having kicked the habit, the number of healthy years remaining in a former smoker's life is about the same as people who never smoked. The results suggest that a smoker who quits before turning 35 is likely to live as long and as well as a non-smoker. It's never too late to quit!

A motivated employee. Success Coach, **Karen Sheerin (Southwest Michigan ERN)** had an employee visit her with a need to find a free or low cost resource to help her quit smoking. Karen provided her with a several possible resources including: **Medicaid.** Many Medicaid programs cover the nicotine patch and nicotine gum. To see if you qualify for Medicaid, apply at: www.michigan.gov/mibridges. If you need assistance applying, your Success Coach will be happy to help.

The Tobacco Quitline offers free telephone coaching to help quit smoking. Callers without insurance may qualify for free nicotine patches. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance. This program has a directory of drug company programs that will help with the cost of prescriptions. Call 1-800-477-2669.

Connection to Care. This program can help you get low-cost or free Chantix, Nicotrol Inhaler, and/or Nicotrol Nasal Spray. Call 1-866-776-3700.

Bridges to Access. This program can help you get Zyban or Bupropion SR. Call 1-866-728-4368.

Sources: *ERN MI; USA Today; MDHHS*