

# THE LINK

Keeping you connected

Vol. 1 Issue 3



## CREATIVE INNOVATION TEAM WORK

### 01 celebrating success.

Looking for employment and a career change, Charles reached out to Michigan Works! Southeast for hope.

After years working as an electrician and hurdles to employment to overcome, Charles met with Sandy Saltz, a Career Advisor in our Jackson Office. Working together, they created a career plan that would put Charles on a fast track to get back on his feet.



Pictured above: Charles Martin

With a desirable driving record and ability to be over the road, Charles enrolled in truck driving training. In a few short weeks, he obtained his Commercial Driver's License Class A and began working full time earning almost \$30.00 per hour.

### 02 our impact.

Michigan Works! Southeast will receive more than \$2.6 million from the Michigan Talent Investment agency to train workers at 61 companies in the region through the State's competitive Skilled Trades Training Grant. "We are pleased that our business services team was able to help so many companies apply for and receive the grant funds," said William Sleight, Director of Michigan Works! Southeast. "The training will help workers gain new skills so that the companies can thrive in today's global market," he said.

- Hillsdale-5 companies will collectively receive \$194,741.00
- Jackson-17 companies will collectively receive \$1,354,978.00
- Lenawee-8 companies will collectively receive \$152,817.00
- Livingston-10 companies will collectively receive \$358,264.00
- Washtenaw-21 companies will collectively receive \$636,459.00

### 03 labor force, what's that?

As the close of one year and the beginning of another quickly approaches, it is common to reflect on accomplishments and look ahead to set goals for the next 365 days. One of our goals at Michigan Works! Southeast is to share labor market information and help translate the impact it can have on you, your industry, and your future. Starting in January 2018, we will be collaborating with the Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) to bring you real time employment data trends for Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties.

Before we bring you the real time data and employment trends, it is important to know what is included in the information we are going to share. A commonly referred to term in labor market is the unemployment rate, which you may have heard discussed on the news or radio but do we really understand who is included in that rate and what it truly reflects? According to Vol. 73, Issue 10 of Michigan's Labor Market News, "Michigan's Labor force participation rate remains around 62%". So what makes up the 62%? The labor force is made of full and part time employed individuals plus those collecting unemployment insurance. Excluded from the labor force is individuals who are retired, ill or disabled, attending training, those caring for others in their home and those who have quit looking for employment.

The next time you hear someone refer to the unemployment rate, we're hoping you have a better understanding of what that rate truly reflects and what that means for your community.



To read the full article from Michigan's Labor Market Newsletter, click here