

GRBJ SCAN

June – September 2006

The following outline catalogs interesting topics that were in the Grand Rapids Business Journal over the last 3 months. This is not a scientific analysis; it is highly qualitative and contains the bias of what the GRBJ. That said, I believe that you can start to see some patterns which offer both opportunities and challenges for Grand Rapids Community College.

- Access to Health Care
- Health Care Costs
- Spectrum pricing on-line
- Spectrum Increase Health Costs
- Health Coverage for the Uninsured
- Health Care Expansion
- RHIO Regional Health Information Organization
- Emergency Medical System Inadequacies

- Aging
 - Retirement Centers
 - Continuous Care Retirement Communities
 - Community Collaboration
 - Alternative Retirement
 - Leisure
 - Learning
 - Work
- Senior Health Care Costs

- Diversity
- MCRI on the November Ballot
- Disability Mobility
- Urban Development
- Urban Redevelopment
- Shared Services (County-City)
- Lean concepts
- Regional and Local Transportation
- Amtrak
- ITP
- "The Rapid" Expansion
- Light Rail

- Land Use

- Homeland Security Defined

- Retail Diversification
- Meijer providing health care
- Wal-Mart providing banking services

- Economy
- Workforce Development
 - A skilled workforce
 - Urban assimilation centers where people of different cultures feel comfortable and included
 - A legacy of place
 - Business dynamics
 - Racial inclusion
 - Income equality
 - Location amenities such as green space
 - Urbanization/metropolitan structure.

The Upjohn study tied Michigan's slow job growth to the state's "overspecialization in the Big Three auto companies" and reported Michigan's share of auto-related employment was more than seven times the national average.

- Shutdowns and Layoffs
- State's Leadership in Alternative Energy
- Tax Abatements
- Education
 - Skills Training
 - Proprietary Service Training
 - Health Information
 - Career Exposure
 - ISD Skill Centers
 - GRCC Scholarships
 - GFT – Global web-based education-Financial Training
 - Research Interns and Experiences
 - GRCC Lakeshore expansion

- Economic Development

- WIRED Grant
- Renaissance Zones
- Redevelopment Zones
- Single Business Tax Repeal
- SBT revenue replacement
- Convention and Arena Authority
- R and D Tax Credits
- Training Grants Benefit 12 Firms-MEDC

- The MI Strategic Fund-21st Century Jobs Fund
- Life-Sciences
 - Institutions Partner On Research-ClinXus

- Attracting New Businesses
- Diversification
- Health and Info Systems still top list as Fastest Growing Jobs
- Temp Workers

- Furniture Industry
- Changing Nature
- Global Economy
- Outsourcing vs Home-sourcing
- Design and Creativity
- Lean Manufacturing
- Supply Chain
- Innovation
- New Processes
- New Products
 - My Studio
 - Flexible Environments
 - Home Office
 - Human Interaction
 - Health Care
 - Work Around
 - Nimble Manufacturing
 - Customization
 - Designing the Office of the Future-Technology
- Changing Corporate Culture

- Environmental Sustainability (Environmental and Economic)
- Green Materials
 - Exhibits
 - Bamboo

- Banking Industry
- Commercial Lending

- Service Industry
- The Virtual Storyteller
- Media

- Legal and Law Professions
- Digital Law
- Mergers and Acquisitions

- Manufacturing
- Changing Nature
- Global Economy
- Outsourcing vs Homesourcing
- Design and Creativity
- Lean Manufacturing
- Supply Chain
- Innovation
- Alcoa DOD contract
- Manufacturing Build-up
- Tool and Die Change and Survival

- Technologic Change
- Manufacturing
- Information Systems
- Homeland Security
- Media-On-line Content
 - Local content
 - Internet Delivery
- Web 2.0

- Environmental Sustainability (Environmental and Economic)
- Alternative Energy
 - Bio-Diesel
 - Muskegon Facility
- Water Resource Center
- LEEDS Construction-Commercial and Residential

Beth DeWilde, president of Paragon Recruiting, specializes in matching those looking for work in technology with those seeking the best and the brightest employees for their technology-based positions.

DeWilde said she is seeing positions open up in software development and quality assurance, as well as a demand for employees with specialization in different technologies.

There is also a variety of systems analyst positions and jobs for project managers with a technological background, she said.

"A lot of people are looking for not only the specific technology, but they're looking for star performers," she said.

DeWilde said her clients are looking for people who are passionate about the work they do, and for creative problem-solvers and strong communicators.

"People want people who can solve problems, who can recognize an issue and not put a short-term fix, but can make it so those issues do not occur," she said.

Note: Specific articles available upon request.

mchampion@gccc.edu