



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2005

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Granolm Says “Return to Learn Month” Helps Citizens Increase Earning Power, Grow State’s Economy

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today thanked colleges and universities across the state of Michigan for their campaign during the first annual “Return to Learn Month” to attract Michigan workers back to campus to finish their degrees. The Governor gave this designation to the month of November to increase awareness of the opportunities for adult learners that are available in Michigan higher education institutions and of the benefits that go to those who earn college degrees.

“There are no two ways about it – when you learn more, you earn more,” said Granholm. “Not only do individuals prosper, but Michigan’s economy grows stronger when we raise the education level of our workforce.”

Granolm has made doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan over the next decade a priority for her Administration, saying that to have a strong economy, Michigan must have the best educated workforce in the country. The Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, appointed by Granholm and led by Lt. Governor John Cherry, recommended increased outreach to the one out of four Michigan workers who have attended college but have not earned a degree.

The Lt. Governor labeled this first statewide outreach campaign, involving every state university and community college in Michigan and many of the state’s independent colleges and universities, a tremendous success in terms of promoting the value of a college degree.

“Our ‘Return to Learn’ campaign is really just getting started,” said Cherry. “These institutions have an ongoing commitment to welcoming back adult learners and giving them the support they need to finish their degrees.”

Participating institutions were asked to develop their own unique ways to connect with the target audience. Some held open house programs for adult learners, some used broadcast advertising aimed at working adults without degrees, some waived application fees during “Return to Learn Month,” and some created special scholarships to support students who come back to campus to finish a degree.

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Each participating higher education institution helped prospective students develop a “Return to Learn” plan, a road map to degree completion. The colleges and universities also helped students understand how coursework they have already completed can be counted toward their degree goals and how they might qualify for financial and employer and union-based tuition assistance.

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Below is a list of participating institutions:

Alma College	Madonna University
Alpena Community College	Michigan State University
Baker College	Michigan Technological University
Bay de Noc Community College	Mid Michigan Community College
Calvin College	Monroe County Community College
Central Michigan University	Montcalm Community College
Clearly University	Mott Community College
College for Creative Studies	Muskegon Community College
Cooley Law School	North Central Michigan College
Davenport University	Northern Michigan University
Delta College	Northwestern Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University	Oakland Community College
Ferris State University	Oakland University
Finlandia University	Olivet College
Glen Oaks Community College	Rochester College
Gogebic Community College	Saginaw Valley State University
Grand Rapids Community College	Schoolcraft College
Grand Valley State University	Southwestern Michigan College
Henry Ford Community College	Spring Arbor University
Jackson Community College	St. Clair County Community College
Kalamazoo Valley Community College	University of Michigan
Kellogg Community College	University of Michigan – Flint
Kirtland Community College	Walsh College
Lake Michigan College	Washtenaw Community College
Lake Superior State University	Wayne County Community College
Lansing Community College	Wayne State University
Lawrence Technological University	West Shore Community College
Macomb Community College	Western Michigan University