

THE PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT NETWORKS PRESENTS..

PROFILES OF..



Name: **Matthew Brady**

Program: TAA

Dates of service: 11/24/09-7/30/11

Types of service: Re-employment services, skills assessment, career research, career workshops and classroom training.

Previous Occupation: General Automotive Production

New Occupation: Aircraft Mechanic

New Employer: Columbia Helicopters



His Story: Matt previously worked as a general production laborer at Unisys Corporation until late in 2009 when he was laid off along with many of his co-workers. Shortly after that, his company applied and was approved for the TAA program. Matt now had access to a wide array of services as he embarked on his career campaign. However, like many in his situation, he found it very difficult to find employment in today's job market. After much consideration, Matt made the decision to seek additional training to enhance his marketability and transition his career into a new and emerging sector. He chose to pursue the Airframe/Power Plant Technician program through MIAT. Once he successfully completed his training a whole new world of opportunities became available for Matt and he accepted an Aircraft Mechanic position at Columbia Helicopters. Matt serves as a great success story and a perfect example of the doors that can be opened and dreams that can be realized by utilizing the services at Michigan Works!

In His Words: "The future is much brighter with the additional training I received through the TAA program at Michigan Works!"



PROFILES OF..



Name: Annette Lotharp

Program: Employment Service

Dates of service: 4/18/11-8/26/11

Previous Occupation: Librarian

New Occupation: Library Technician



Her Story: Annette came to Michigan Works! immediately after being laid off, however she struggled to find suitable employment in her field. The scarce amount of jobs relevant to her skill set were being gobbled up by other job seekers faster than she could apply to them. As she described it, she "was competing with hundreds of different applicants for one job." After about three months of fruitless job searching, Annette enrolled in the PPN Program. She credits this decision as the biggest factor leading to her eventual re-employment. In the PPN workshop, she learned about all of the common mistakes she had been making with her resume and cover letter. She explained; "my resume and cover letter were not in the best condition. The changes I made to my cover letter and resume were quickly recognized by hiring personnel. You have to make your resume stand out". In fact, Annette realized such a drastic impact that she obtained an interview with her "new" resume *before* she completed the PPN workshop, and was hired the next day! In her opinion, without the PPN Program and Michigan Works! "I'd be still using and outdated resume and cover letter, and still be getting passed up for jobs."

In Her Words: "I used the techniques from the PPN class and presented my "new resume" for the first time to a potential employer. I got a call the next day for an interview and have been working at OCC Orchard Ridge campus ever since."



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Name: Carlos Lopez

Program: TAA

Dates of service: 6/23/09-2/2/11

Types of service: Employment services, skills assessment, career assessment, career research workshops, and classroom training.

Previous Occupation: Design Engineer

New Occupation: Mechanical Design Engineer

New Employer: BE Aerospace

His Story: Carlos was laid off from his Design Engineer position at Johnson Controls in May of 2009 and the company was approved for TAA assistance. This opened up a wide array of services and benefits to Carlos, giving him the opportunity to transition his career to the new economy. However things were not easy at the start, jobs were diminishing and although recruiters expressed interest, it seemingly wasn't enough to land an interview. He decided that he would need some re-training to enhance his employment opportunities. He completed several skills and career assessments and ultimately enrolled in, and completed training in the Welding Technology Certification Program at Washtenaw Community College. Following his training, things began to change for the better for Carlos and job opportunities opened up. He accepted a CAD Design position in February with RCO Manufacturing, which lead to his current Mechanical Design Engineering position at BE Aerospace. Carlos is a prime example of what customers can achieve through Michigan Works! programs. His persistence and courage to re-tool his skills through additional training certainly paid off.

In His Words: "I feel my future is much brighter with the additional training I received through the TAA and Michigan Works! programs."



THE PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT NETWORK PRESENTS..

PROFILES OF..



Name: Darlene Leszczynski

Program: Employment Service

Dates of service: 5/10/11-7/6/11

Previous Occupation: Secretary

New Occupation: Program Coordinator- Henry Ford Health System



Her Story: Darlene didn't wait very long to get back into the job market. She showed up at Michigan Works! the day after losing her job, determined that she wouldn't be one of the many people struggling for months on end to find gainful employment. Her biggest obstacle was that she needed some sense of direction in her job search. She quickly enrolled in the Professional Placement Network where she found exactly what she was looking for. After absorbing all of the latest career transition information and inspiration provided in those three days, she felt a clear sense of direction, and quickly set about taking action. Some of her biggest takeaways from the PPN were that; "it is a full time job looking for work", and "the words you choose to use can greatly effect the outcome". She is now employed as a Program Coordinator with Henry Ford Health Systems and "loves" her job. As for what might be different if she hadn't utilized Michigan Works!; "I don't even want to think about it!.. Probably still searching and spinning my wheels."

In Her Words: "If you follow the program that Michigan Works! has laid out, you will not only just get a job, but a better one that is suited to YOU."



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Name: **David Weeks**

Program: TAA

Dates of service: 4/14/09 to present.

Types of service: Workforce Information, job search planning, PPN Program, proficiency testing, classroom training.

Previous Occupation: Senior Manager; Supplier Quality Assurance

Previous Employer: North American Braking

New Occupation: Director of Quality Assurance

New Employer: Kruz-Kasch



His Story: David was registered as a TAA customer at Michigan Works! when he became an active member in the PPN network, volunteering his time at various PPN events to share his story and motivate fellow job seekers. After an exhausting job search, he decided to pursue the classroom training benefits through TAA to enhance and update his credentials and increase his marketability. David continued to seek employment while attending school and found success in June of 2010 with Kruz-Kasch as a Quality Assurance Director. The employer was impressed with David's prior work history, previous certificates, and the current training program he was attending through the TAA program for an Advanced Master Certification in Lean Six Sigma and Six Sigma Black Belt. David loved the new found opportunity to travel all over the world with his new company and couldn't be happier with his experience with the entire Michigan Works! team.

In His Words: "With the services Michigan Works! provided and previous work experience, I was able to find employment through networking and advancing on my current level of education."



PROFILES OF..



Name: Trupti Patel

Program: Employment Service

Dates of service: 12/2/10-2/22/11

Previous Occupation: Program Analyst – Walsh College

New Occupation: Program Analyst - State of Michigan

Her Story: In late 2010, Trupti found herself out of work as a Program Analyst. After visiting her local Michigan Works! service center, she was directed to several career exploration and assistance tools, including the Career Trends workshop, and the O*Net interest profiler. She gained knowledge on market trends as well as wage and salary info that she previously wasn't aware of. Ultimately, she was informed of the Professional Placement Network and enrolled in the next available session. She credits this as being the most valuable and helpful service in her career transition. She learned the latest employer trends and discovered how different the job market was since the last time she was seeking work. As she put it; "job search strategies are so different now than even just a few years ago because technology has changed so much. Even the interviewing techniques have changed since the last time I was laid off." Armed with confidence due to her new knowledge of today's job market, Trupti was able to obtain a position with the State of Michigan as a Program Analyst.

In Her Words: " I'm so grateful I was able to use the Michigan Works! office to fill out applications, fax resumes, and attend workshops, all of which contributed to me getting hired. I thank the Michigan Works! staff for all their help."

