



2026

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



west michigan
health careers

ABOUT THE COUNCIL



MISSION AND VISION

The West Michigan Health Careers Council brings together employers, educators and workforce partners to strengthen the region's healthcare workforce. Through collaboration, we address current and future talent needs, helping build a skilled workforce that supports thriving healthcare organizations across West Michigan.

INDUSTRY IMPACT

Sixty of the 100 hottest jobs in West Michigan relate to healthcare. Healthcare contributed \$9.5 billion in gross regional product in 2025. Additionally, healthcare is one of Michigan's largest employment sectors contributing significantly to the state's economy. Currently, more than 101,000 people are employed in the healthcare industry in West Michigan. Our coordinated effort to attract, develop and retain talent is vital to long-term organizational sustainability.



« The Council provides healthcare businesses with a unique opportunity to collaborate on solutions that strengthen the industry as a whole. By sharing best practices, addressing common workforce challenges and developing meaningful initiatives, members work together to create a stronger healthcare workforce and healthier communities. Through this collaboration, organizations achieve a collective impact that extends far beyond what any one business could accomplish alone. »

- Bill Guest, Council Vice-Chair, Metrics Reporting

OUR STRATEGY

PROMOTE • TRAIN • RETAIN



OUTREACH & PROMOTE

Promoting healthcare careers through education and advocacy.



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Providing opportunities for individuals to enter the industry and thrive in their careers.



RETENTION

Creating solutions to help workers stay within the industry.



BE THE DIFFERENCE

MICAREERQUEST

MiCareerQuest introduced more than 8,100 middle and high school students to careers in high-demand industries through hands-on experiences. Students explored 62 healthcare careers presented by 24 healthcare organizations and educators. Interactive displays featuring surgical robots, diagnostic imaging equipment, ambulances, anatomy exhibits and nutrition stations brought healthcare careers to life. These experiences sparked curiosity and expanded students' awareness of career opportunities. MiCareerQuest continues to strengthen connections between education and industry while helping prepare the next generation of talent for West Michigan's workforce.



As a first-time exhibitor, I was impressed by MiCareerQuest's scale and student enthusiasm. Connecting with young people and showcasing healthcare careers was rewarding, while collaborating with other healthcare organizations reinforced our shared commitment to inspiring and developing West Michigan's future healthcare workforce.

- Andrea Owens, Hourglass Testing Solutions



21
HEALTHCARE
EXHIBITORS

210
HEALTHCARE
VOLUNTEERS

BE THE CHANGE

FUTURE ROUNDS – HEALTH CAREERS EXPO

This interactive career exploration event allowed 7th-12th grade students and their families to explore a variety of healthcare careers based on specific health event scenarios. As students arrived, they were provided with a flyer describing a patient needing medical care. Students used cues on the flyer to move through the expo and meet with healthcare providers to learn about health career jobs, hiring processes, tuition assistance and career paths of various occupations.

I learned so much from this experience. The activities were like nothing I've ever seen, with so many unique, entertaining interactions designed for us to not only see what goes on in these respective fields, but also to help us experience what the patient may be feeling. Truly, a job fair that is unlike any other.

- Samantha, Launch U

61
ATTENDEES

20
EXHIBITORS



\$2,812,860
TRAINING
DOLLARS
INVESTED



243
PROFESSIONALS
TRAINED



40
ENGAGED
BUSINESSES



1,127
PROJECT
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

WORKPLACE WELLBEING SUMMIT

The Industry Talent Councils hosted a Workplace Wellbeing Summit, bringing together business leaders and community partners to advance workplace mental health across West Michigan. Participants explored practical tools, evidence-based strategies and resources to help organizations create healthier, more supportive workplaces. Through collaboration and discussion, attendees shared ideas for embedding mental health best practices into everyday operations. Prioritizing workplace wellbeing is especially important in healthcare, where reducing burnout, improving retention, strengthening teamwork and building resilience leads to better patient care and stronger, more sustainable organizations.



25

ORGANIZATIONS

95

ATTENDEES



Nearly 100 professionals from West Michigan's six key industries came together to create healthier workplaces where people can thrive. The Workplace Wellbeing Summit equipped participants with practical tools, strategies and a renewed commitment to advancing workplace mental health to benefit employees, organizations and our entire region.

- Brad Sims, West Michigan Health Careers Council



8,625
STUDENTS
EXPLORED
CAREERS



839
LINKEDIN AND
NEWSLETTER
FOLLOWERS





COUNCIL MEMBERS

- BILL GUEST
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR
METRICS REPORTING
- ANNETTE MCBRIDE
TRINITY HEALTH
- JESSIE EXOO
HOPE NETWORK
- TONYA SPENCER
CHERRY HEALTH
- RYAN GRAHAM
KENT ISD
- DOUG HIMMELEIN
HOLLAND HOME
- AMY LEBEDNICK,
WEST MICHIGAN WORKS!
- LISA RADAK, GRCC
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
- STEVE SMITH
U OF M HEALTH – WEST
- BRENDA HENNINK
AQUINAS COLLEGE
- AMY PIERCE-DANDERS
PINE REST CHRISTIAN MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES
- SANDI KARMAN
FOREST VIEW HOSPITAL
- JARED CURLEY
MARY FREE BED
- MEGAN CHRISTENSEN
MEIJER PHARMACY
- TIM WISEMAN
COREWELL HEALTH

FUNDERS

- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY,
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- WEST MICHIGAN WORKS!
- GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
HEALTH – WEST
- KENT ISD
- COREWELL HEALTH
- TRINITY HEALTH
- PINE REST
- LIFE EMS
- BAKER COLLEGE



wmihealth  careers



West Michigan Works! is a division of ACSET, an equal opportunity employer/program and a proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. West Michigan Works! is supported by state and federal funds; more details at westmiworks.org/about/.