



## **Press Release: Middle Michigan Receives Over \$2.6 Million in Marshall Plan for Talent Innovation Grant Funding**

December 17th, 2018, Mt. Pleasant, MI -- Two recently established talent consortiums within Isabella and Clare counties were awarded a Marshall Plan for Talent Innovation Grant totaling \$2,615,611 of investment across the region. These two talent consortiums, representing both the Clare-Gladwin and Isabella-Gratiot Regional Education Service Districts (RESA), were only two of nine receiving funding after over eighty different talent consortiums across the state had applied.

“The funding received through the Marshall Plan for Talent Innovation grant will benefit approximately 14,000 students locally and give our schools a competitive advantage across the state when it comes to career readiness” notes Jim McBryde, President and CEO of Middle Michigan Development Corporation. “Many students aren’t aware of all the career opportunities available to them, especially technical careers, and I really like that both talent consortiums placed strong emphasis on assisting students sort through their options by placing career navigators within their school districts.”

Middle Michigan Development Corporation is actively involved with both talent consortiums and played a major role in bringing together 59 community partners including educators, businesses, post-secondary institutions, industry partners and workforce development organizations. In fact, Middle Michigan Development Corporation took on the role of Convener for the Clare-Gladwin consortium, officially known as the Middle Michigan Professional Trades Talent Consortium.

According to the Marshall Plan website, the Marshall Plan for Talent is a revolutionary approach to prepare students and adults for careers for tomorrow. The funds provided to each talent consortium can be used for curriculum creation, project-based certification programs, equipment, full-time staff, industry mentors, professional development, competency-based pilot programs, cybersecurity incentives, career navigators and teacher shortage relief programs.

To learn more, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/ted/0,5863,7-336-85008---,00.html>

### *About Middle Michigan Development Corporation*

Middle Michigan Development Corporation was established in 1981 as an economic development organization representing both Isabella and Clare counties. MMDC is incorporated as a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization with the State of Michigan and is focused on growing the economy with services designed to retain, expand and attract businesses.

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