

## Archive – Bill’s Blog – National CRC Advocates – January 2008 to October 2010

### **10/18/2010 Governor Proclaims Career Readiness Certificate Week**

Governor Granholm proclaims Career Readiness Certificate Week, October 17 to 23. A highlight of the week will be the 2010 NCRC Conference at the Lexington Hotel in Lansing, October 21 and 22. Read more here.

### **10/16/2010 Talent SCM 2025 Vision Statement**

Tom Karel and I authored a vision statement for Talent SCM (supply chain management). Tom is Vice President, Organization and Talent Effectiveness at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There are countless others who contributed to the work that led to this shared vision. With this vision, we illustrate how employers can deeply engage in regional talent development as leaders and collaborators with education and workforce development. Download Talent SCM 2025 Vision paper here. And, presentation version here.

### **8/5/2010 Announcement - The 2010 Michigan NCRC Conference**

The conference in a month earlier this year. Please plan to join us on Thursday and Friday, October 21 and 22, in Lansing Michigan for the 2010 Conference. Download a flyer here to send to friends and colleagues that should attend. Links to registration can be found on our Conferences page.

### **5/13/2010 New Louisiana Employer LOC Form**

Louisiana employers download a Louisiana Letter of Commitment (LOC) Form here. Fax back as indicated on the form and your LOC will be posted within 24 hours.

### **5/11/2010 New NCRC Employer Handbook**

ACT Workforce released the new handbook at the Workforce 2010 conference. Download a copy of

the Employer Handbook here. For more visit the ACT website Employers page.

**5/10/2010      The New Employer Letter of Commitment (LOC)**

We recently simplified the Employer Letter of Commitment (LOC) to be in alignment with the new Employer Handbook. For more visit our Employers page.

**5/9/2010      Skills Now! - Download Links**

Download links for various versions of Skills Now! - A Case for Urgent Action to Build the Skills of Americas Workers are available on the Presentations page.

**5/8/2010      DuPage College Presentation of Skills Now!**

We were invited to speak at DuPage College on Wednesday, May 5th. After the awards banquet we met with a group of local advocates to share ideas and lessons learned from Michigan. The content shared was from the Skills Now! presentation.

**5/6/2010      National CRC Advocates Preconference Session**

We hosted a Preconference Session at Workforce2010 in Philadelphia on April 27th. Download a copy of the Preconference Session presentation here.

**5/5/2010      ACT Workforce2010 Presentations**

ACT Workforce 2010 was held in Philadelphia April 27th to 30th. Flowing are links to my two presentations: Building Statewide Alignment and Career Pathways with Ed Prevatt and Marsha Harmon. More on the coaching model here.

**4/26/2010      West Michigan Health Care Employers Council Event**

The Health Care Employer Council has scheduled a public event, June 3rd, to discuss their Workforce Development Position Paper with educators and workforce development professionals. Download a Save-the-Date announcement.

**4/25/2010 Talent Supply Chain Management - Talent SCM**

We've been thinking about Talent SCM as a framework for regional workforce development. This helps everyone see their roles in context and helps employers to see their role in driving system change. Click here to download a few examples of Talent SCM.

**4/22/2010 NAM Skills Certification System - April 20th Workshop**

Fred Keller hosted a regional kick-off event for the NAM Skills Certification System April 20th at Cascade Engineering. Jennifer McNelly of the Manufacturing Institute joined us from DC to explain the system and the roles of executives, human resource professionals, and educators in this important workforce innovation. Download the presentation here. For more information look in the 3/2/2010 blog entry below.

**4/16/2010 New Vision for Career Technical Education**

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education published Reflect, Transform, Lead: A New Vision for Career Technical Education. Read the press release.

**ACTE Answers: What is "Career Ready?"**

Association for Career and Technical Education answers: What is Career Ready? Read the related articles from Inside Higher Ed and Education Week.

**4/11/2010 Skills Now Revised and Republished**

Skills Now - A Case for Urgent Action to Build the Skills of America's Workers has been revised and republished. Download the PDF here. (13.2 MB)  
Advocates Propose Five "Transformational" Ideas

States and regions are working on plans to chart a path to meet the Lumina Big Goal. The advocates have five transformational ideas to align the certificate movement to accelerate progress toward the Big Goal.

**3/29/2010      Andy Levin to Keynote at ACT National Conference**

Andy will keynote at Workforce 2010: more here...

**National CRC Advocates Website is Online**

We have some of the pages of the new website up at: [www.NationalCRCadvocates.org](http://www.NationalCRCadvocates.org). We'll be adding our databases and state pages soon.

**3/26/2010      Michigan DELEG Promotes the Michigan NCRC**

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth is promoting the NCRC via a series of employer forums. Read more here...

**3/24/2010      National Advocates - Mission, Vision, Strategies & Goals**

We are expanding the Michigan Advocates to all 50 states. Click here for a two-page summary or a presentation of the mission, vision, values, big goal, strategies, and metrics.

**3/11/2010      The NCRC and Construction Industry Careers**

ACT and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) announced a partnership to integrate the NCRC into the NCCER set of certificates. Read more here...

**3/2/2010      Michigan NCRC Employer Handbook**

The Michigan NCRC Employer Handbook is available.

**NAM Skills Certification System Event - April 20, 2010**

The Manufacturers' Councils and Community Colleges of West Michigan met today to plan a jointly sponsored NAM Skills Certification System event for April 20, 2010. Jennifer McNelly, senior vice president, the Manufacturing Institute, the education affiliate of NAM, previewed the NAM SCS Presentation with the planning team via conference call today. Save the morning of April 20th for our NAM SCS event. Jennifer McNelly will be here in person to tell us more about the NAM-Endorsed system. Click here for the invitation and agenda. For

more information visit the NAM Skills Certification System website.

**2/27/2010**

**NCRC Ad on careerbuilder at LSJ.com**

Check out the new NCRC ad on careerbuilder at the Lansing State Journal.

**New NCRC Materials for Students from Ingham ISD**

Ingham ISD has published a new Stand Out from the Crowd brochure for students and a new Health Sciences Poster with WorkKeys targets.

**Introducing the new Greater Lansing NCRC website**

The Capital Area Michigan Works! is launching an NCRC employer outreach campaign in the Greater Lansing area in partnership with the local schools, Ingham ISD, Eaton ISD, Clinton ISD, Lansing Community College, DELEG and the Mid-Michigan Innovation Team. Click here to visit [GreaterLansingNCRC.org](http://GreaterLansingNCRC.org)

**2/20/2010**

**The NCRC and Career Ready 101 Voted as Top Tools**

The NCRC and Career Ready 101 each earned a spot at the top of the list for Career Planning Tools in the Department of Labor's Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge. This was the Department of Labor's first foray into the use of crowd sourcing and other web 2.0 technologies. Over the course of the three month challenge, over 16,000 registered users cast 30,000 votes for the 634 submitted tools. The Department of Labor has examined these tools, users, and votes for fraud, abuse, and other questionable content and has posted the top tools in alphabetical order on [www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools](http://www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools).

**2/19/2010**

**New Address Coming Soon: [www.ncrcadvocates.org](http://www.ncrcadvocates.org)**

Soon we'll be moving to [www.ncrcadvocates.org](http://www.ncrcadvocates.org) to shift to a national focus. We will offer our support to advocates in all 50 states to help our colleagues across the nation aggregate the voices of employers. By working together, we can show that there are thousands of employers using

CRCs and NCRCs to improve their hiring decisions.

**Vision: Advocates in all 3099 Counties in all 50 States**

We just completed upgrades to the website to enable the advocates to grow into all 3099 counties in all 50 states. Views for State and County were added to the Public Contacts and Employer LOC databases. Click on the + in front of the State and County names to expand the list. Click on Sign Up to add your name to the public contacts list. Visit the Employer page to learn how to register an Employer Letter of Commitment.

**2/3/2010**

**Fiscal Year 2011 Federal Budget Request**

The National Skills Coalition released a preliminary analysis of the FY 2011 budget request to Congress and prepared a preliminary survey of programs and proposals that impact job training and education policy. Download a copy.

**Illinois - Manzullo Announces Plan to Support WorkKeys**

Steve Kneubuehl, Paul Calvagna, and Pat Hayes are working together in Illinois. They sent us a newspaper clip of the article with the title "\$200K for job training; Manzullo announces plan to support WorkKeys, COE" And, a copy of the press release.

**2/2/2010**

**U.S. Mfg. Council Recommends NAM SCS and NCRC**

The United States Manufacturing Council included the NAM-Endorsed Skills Certification System and the NCRC in its recommendations. Click here to view the Manufacturing Council website, the recommendation letter, or the background details. Look at points 4 and 5 of section 3 of the background for full details (top of page 10). Manufacturing & Technology News reported January 12, 2010 that Fred Keller, chairman of Cascade Engineering and chairman of the Manufacturing Council, discussed these recommendations in a conference call with Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

**1/30/2010      Mapping Green Career Pathways in Michigan**

A new report "Mapping Green Career Pathways: Job Training Infrastructure and Opportunities in Michigan" was published this month by Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

**Employer Streamlining Hiring Process in Kansas**

McPherson fiberglass insulation manufacturer Johns Manville has taken a difference approach to finding qualified applicants for its open positions. In June 2009, it began using the Kansas WorkReady certificate program to screen and test all of its applicants in an effort to streamline the interview and hiring process. [Click here to read more.](#) Visit our Value for Employers page for links to more employer case studies.

**1/27/2010      New Employer Letter of Commitment (LOC)**

The Employer Letter of Commitment (LOC) was revised. We added a new toll free fax number and instructions. We will post the LOCs within 24 hours. We also made a spot for our neighbors in Illinois. So when you see the county named ILLINOIS, don't be alarmed. It is just a bit of being neighborly to our friends in Illinois.

**1/23/2010      Final Resolution: NCRC for Perkins Accountability**

The Michigan NCRC Advocates passed the following resolution "We resolve to encourage and support the Department of Education of the State of Michigan to file all appropriate documents to seek and obtain approval for the NCRC to be our statewide accountability measure for all Perkins funded programs." in the January 21, 2010 meeting. [Click here to download a copy of the final resolution and the cover letter to Patty Cantu at the Michigan Office of Career and Technical Education.](#)

**1/12/2010      Right Place Manufacturers Council Endorses NAM SCS**

The Right Place Manufacturers Council endorsed the NAM Skill Certification System (SCS) in

their December 2, 2009 meeting. Click on these links to see the resolution, the list of members of the council, or to learn more about the NAM SCS.

**1/9/2010 NCRC Proposed as Perkins Accountability Measure**

The board of the Michigan NCRC Advocates will consider a resolution to recognize the NCRC as Michigan's Perkins accountability measure at the January 21, 2010 board meeting. Click here to download a copy of the DRAFT resolution. If you would like to provide input on this resolution prior to our board meeting please email your suggestions to: Bill Guest, Cindy Leyrer, or Dennis Dunlap.

**11/22/2009 Michigan NCRC Conference Presentations Posted**

The Michigan NCRC Conference keynote and session presentations are posted on our website. The links are on the Conferences page.

**Michigan NCRC Conference a Great Milestone**

The conference was a great success this year. We had over 300 in attendance, up from last year! Yet, most impressive was the quality of the content shared by our keynote speakers and session presenters. Many thanks to the conference planning committee and all of the Michigan NCRC board members and friends that helped organize and manage the conference. And a special thanks for our speakers and presenters. The NCRC is demonstrating value as an alignment tool. The certificate has become our common definition of essential skills. It enables high schools, postsecondary, workforce development, literacy, adult education, corrections, and others to all pull in the same direction. We had representatives from every area in attendance and each area presented how they are using the NCRC to help others. We also had visitors from eleven other states. It's a lot of fun to participate in a movement where we can all pull in the same direction: where we are focused on others; our fellow citizens that need help to get their foundation skills in order as a first

step in their preparation to meet the demands of the knowledge economy.

### **Special Thanks to the Conference Media Crew**

This year we had the help of four Gratiot-Isabella RESD ARRA summer youth students for our media needs. The students: Cassandra Marytn, Victoria Rodriguez, Charleigh Poindexter, and Adam Austin did a great job. Thanks to each of you for your service to our conference. And thanks to Dennis Dunlap, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent for CTE, for the idea of including students.

### **11/14/2009 Michigan the Leader in Gold and Platinum NCRCs**

The advocates have been busy finding a way to claim first place in something. Michigan leads the nation in the number and the percentage of Gold and Platinum certificates. We have 20,309 certificates at Gold and above. That is 25% of our total. Michigan workers have higher skills; and we have the certificates to prove it!

### **11/13/2009 Welcome to the Michigan NCRC Conference**

Conference registration is up this year! We have 290 registrations as of Friday at noon and they keep rolling in. Thank you to Karen Woolman and the team at Macomb Community College for coordinating registrations for us. Looking forward to meeting you all on Monday.

### **11/12/2009 Georgia Passes Michigan to Take 2nd Place**

Good News - Bad News - The good news is that NCRC movement nationwide is alive and well. The NCRC map was updated 11/10/2009. There were significant increases among the top states resulting in: #1 South Carolina with 99,245, #2 Georgia with 93,090, #3 Michigan with 81,240 and #4 Florida with 66,572. The bad news is we dropped back to third place. It's time to pick up the pace. Links to graphics below.

### **10/31/2009 State Rank Graphics Updated**

Graphic 1 - State Rank of (N)CRCs and Graphic 2- Rank of (N)CRCs per capita have been updated to match the latest data on the ACT website certificate map revised 11/10/2009.

**10/30/2009**

### **Community College Influence on Economic Mobility**

The Economic Mobility Project published a new report Strengthening Community Colleges' Influence on Economic Mobility this month. One of the key recommendations is: Provide career counseling and assessment to ensure students understand the full range of job options open to them. Take a look at the highly-structured 4-step career coaching process based on the NCRC and WorkKeys Personal Skills Assessments (PSAs) on our Career Coaching page.

### **Michigan Moves Up to 2nd Place with 74,982 NCRCs**

As we head into our conference we have much to celebrate and share. Last year we were third in terms of "certificates earned." We did a lot of work to collect data and track progress so that we could compare our progress relative to the other states via an objective national benchmarking process. Thanks to each of you for your hard work. Michigan has moved up to the #2 position! View the ACT Map here.

### **U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Career Pathways**

Thriving in Challenging Times: Connecting Education to Economic Development Through Career Pathways: This U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW)/National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) joint publication highlights successful career pathway models.

### **The Manufacturing Institute: People and Profitability**

The Manufacturing Institute, the educational arm of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) issued two new reports this month: People and Profitability, a 2009 supplement to the 2005

Skills Gap Report; and The Facts About Modern Manufacturing.

10/20/2009

### **Michigan NCRC Aligned with No Worker Left Behind**

The NCRC is aligned with the Governor's No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program. Click here to view the Michigan NCRC policy and to see how the new Energy Conservation Readiness Apprenticeship (ECAR) is aligned with the Michigan NCRC.

### **Michigan NCRC Website - Fun Facts**

The Michigan NCRC Website continues to attract new visitors and provide useful information all around the world. The Website Analytics Report indicates 3000 new unique visitors in the last nine months for a total of 7,831 visitors from 77 countries since the site was launched. Our USA Visitor Analysis indicates over 4,000 visits from individuals outside of Michigan. We had visits from every state and Washington DC.

### **Michigan NCRC Conference - November 16th and 17th**

The annual Michigan NCRC Conference (formerly WorkKeys Conference) will be held in Lansing this year. Keynote speakers:

- Andy Levin, Deputy Director, DELEG
- Dr. Keith Bird, Corporation for a Skilled workforce
- Martin Scaglione, President and COO, ACT Workforce Division

For more information and registration visit our conference page.

### **Michigan's Forgotten Middle Skill Jobs**

Skills2Compete published Michigan's Forgotten Middle Skill-Jobs this month. This is a state specific companion to their report America's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs published in November 2007.

### **Michigan with 74,982 Registered Certificates**

ACT launched a new national certificate map. This map provides data on "registered certificates." The map only includes certificates that have an ACT registration number. Click on the states to view Michigan's progress relative to other states. The other leading states are: South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

### **Platinum Certificate Added to Bronze, Silver, and Gold**

ACT announced at the National WorkKeys conference the addition of the Platinum level. [More here.](#)

### **Transforming Michigan's Adult Learning Infrastructure**

The Council for Labor and Economic Growth, our state workforce board, published the report Transforming Michigan's Adult Learning Infrastructure. This report provides a wealth of data on the challenges facing adult learners and provides a path for Michigan to transform to meet these needs. The report also clearly articulates the positive impacts these investments would have on our state.

### **5/29/2009 New Scales Added to WorkKeys Talent Assessment**

ACT announced that four new talent indices have been added to the twelve attributes that the assessment currently measures. The four new indices are: Work Discipline, Teamwork, Customer Service Orientation, and Managerial Potential. [Click here for more.](#)

### **3/17/2009 Inside Higher Ed - The NAM Certificate System and NCRC**

INSIDE HIGHER ED - March 5, 2009  
WASHINGTON -- The National Association of Manufacturing is hoping it can play matchmaker to millions of workers seeking employment and thousands of companies demanding skilled laborers by endorsing a set of skills credentials. Leaders of the largest industrial trade association in the United States, along with four industry groups, announced Wednesday

their support for more ...

**3/6/2009 National Association of Manufacturers and the NCRC**

Check out the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) announcement of the new Manufacturing Skills Certification System based on the NCRC. Advocates have known for a long time that the NCRC is the answer to the problem clarified in the NAM 2005 Skills Gap Report. But, now it is official. The NCRC is the essential skills certificate in the NAM certification system. Take a look at how the NCRC is part of the Career Paths to High Quality Middle Class Jobs.

**New National Career Readiness Certificate Website**

Check out the new NCRC website.

**3/1/2009 New 2009 Map of NCRC Regional Teams**

We revised the map for 2009 to align with the regions of our 25 Michigan Works! Agencies. Last year our boundaries were aligned with the WIRED regions. Going forward, our work needs to align with and support DELEG, Michigan Works! Agencies, and our high schools as they help workers and students earn certificates.

**2/27/2009 Priorities Include NCRC, Soft Skills, and Career Coaching**

The West Michigan Regional Skills Alliance held a strategic planning session on Monday, February 23, 2009. The top priority selected by the team was "Foundational skills and soft skills together with structured career coaching." Click here to download the Regional Priorities Report or to visit the Regional Skills Alliance page to learn more about the session.

**2/9/2009 Birthday for Michigan NCRC Advocates Website this Month**

Our website was launched February 15, 2008. So if websites have birthdays, ours is February 15th. From birth through January 31, 2009 -

4,800 unique visitors from 63 foreign countries and all 50 states visited the site 12,303 times. Take a look at the Website Analytics Report and the USA Visitor Analysis here. And, we list only behind ACT in a Google search of: National Career Readiness Certificate.

**2/7/2009**

### **Skills Now! - A Case for Urgent Action**

We recently completed a survey of the most compelling literature with regard to the status and challenges facing our schools and our workforce development system. This survey has been published under the title: Skills Now! - A Case for Urgent Action to Build the Skills of America's Workers. (10.5 MB) This is an excellent source of key statistics and diagrams that demonstrate the need for the NCRC.

### **ACT Reports 24,922 Seniors Took Locating Information**

Seniors all across Michigan were provided an opportunity to take the Locating Information test last month. This, combined with the Reading for Information and Applied Mathematics scores from their Junior year, will enable them to earn an NCRC. Thirty-eight schools beyond the core funded areas offered LI to their seniors. Thanks to Jim Ballard and ACT for extraordinary support of the Michigan NCRC Advocates to promote this program.

### **Southeast WorkKeys Conference**

Rachael and I attended the Southeast WorkKeys Conference this week. It is amazing to see the progress being made in states all across the nation. The conference attracts from well beyond the southeast. Teams were here from as far away as Maine and Oregon. We provided an update on the Michigan NCRC movement and presented our First Choice Career Coaching (FC3) model.

**2/3/2009**

### **Regional Team Meetings Resume This Month**

The 2009 series of Regional Team meetings begins

this month. Check the calendar on the Resources page for details. If you click on the calendar entry it will display the details of the meeting. Click here for the 2009 schedule of meetings. Call or email Rachael Jungblut, 616.234.3623, for more information.

**1/29/2009      New Coming to Michigan Presentation**

The Coming to Michigan presentation has been revised to include year-end numbers. We also added a slide to clarify why Locating Information, Reading for Information, and Applied Mathematics are the three skills that power the NCRC.

**500 Employers Have Signed a Letter of Commitment**

We reached a milestone at the end of December - 500 Employers have signed a Letter of Commitment. Look at Metric 3 and Chart 4 to see details.

**12/20/2008      Paul Bergan Interview - Inside Michigan Education**

Listen to the podcast of Paul Bergan, Regional Director for Career Technical Education at the Berrien County RESA on Inside Michigan Education. Paul discusses the role of CTE and the NCRC in education today.

**12/19/2008      Boot Camp for Jobs**

Our Health Care RSA project that led to FC3 was based on the chronic shortage of health care workers. Then came October 2008 and the job market changed. Since then, a small team of us have been working some extra hours on a new idea to use the lessons of the WIRED projects to help displaced workers. Click here to download the Boot Camp for Jobs presentation. Email Lee Payne for more information.

**First Choice Career Coaching (FC3) Model**

The West Michigan Health Care Regional Skills

Alliance was funded by WIRED to develop and launch "Highly Qualified" Health Care Counseling. Over time, this evolved into the First Choice Career Coaching Model. Download a PDF of the most recent First Choice Career Coaching presentation here. This model is based on the NCRC and Personal Skills Assessments along with a Four-Step career coaching process. Email Eric Heller or Lee Payne to learn more.

**12/15/2008 Over 300 Documents on the NCRC Advocates Website**

Today we have 317 documents on the site. The NCRC is a lot about heart. It is about having a heart and caring about folks that need a trustworthy path to prosperity - folks that need honest feedback regarding their skill levels and what that means for their prospects for employment. The movement is made up of a lot of people who care enough to do something to help others. But, heart alone isn't enough. Take a look at the documents on the Resources page and in the Public Documents section. A little bit of homework along with that big heart goes a long way.

**12/14/2008 St. Clair County Tests County Workers**

The Times Herald of St. Clair reported on the county's \$25,000 program to test workers and issue National Career Readiness Certificates. [Click here to read the article.](#)

**11/22/2008 Michigan WorkKeys Conference - A Great Success**

The 2008 Michigan WorkKeys Conference was a giant success. Fantastic break-out sessions, discussion panels, and keynote speakers. Check out the Conferences page for more.

**LI Assessment Program for Seniors to Earn an NCRC**

ACT announced at the Michigan WorkKeys conference a program to allow seniors to take the Locating Information assessments so that they can earn an NCRC prior to graduation. Look for

details on the Conferences page. This program is designed for high schools that want to offer LI to all seniors and award them NCRCs prior to or at graduation.

**11/18/2008 Career Coaching Presentation at CAEL Conference**

The West Michigan WIRED Health Care project: First Choice Career Coaching (FC3) was presented at the CAEL Conference in Philadelphia last week. This work integrates the NCRC with the Personal Skills Assessments and career coaching to help more people find their best next career step in healthcare. Download the presentation and learn more on our new Careers page.

**11/11/2008 Conference Booklet Available Online**

We uploaded the conference booklet for the 2008 Michigan WorkKeys Conference today. Check out the Conferences page for more information.

**Your Feedback on the Website is Welcome**

Please send us your feedback on the website. Many of the pages are still being developed and we welcome your suggestions as we complete them. If you see areas that need attention or have suggestions for additional content that should be added, please send an email with your suggestion to [bill.guest@metricsreporting.com](mailto:bill.guest@metricsreporting.com).

**11/6/2008 Over 225 Registered to Attend the Michigan Conference**

We have over 225 people registered to attend the 2008 Michigan WorkKeys Conference. There is still time to register. Hope to see you there.

**New Website Goes Live Today [www.michigancrc.org](http://www.michigancrc.org)**

Check out the new pages at [www.michigancrc.org](http://www.michigancrc.org). And, be sure to look at the "How we measure progress" page. It has a map of Michigan that let's you click on the county to see progress in your area on all key measures. Follow the link to the bigger map at the top of the page and

have some fun clicking around Michigan to see what your neighboring counties are doing with the NCRC.

**11/4/2008 Michigan Jumps Above 40,000 Mark with 40,637 NCRCs**

Most of the October data is in. We had to pause to get the monthly report done. At this point we have 40,637 NCRCs earned. Check out Chart 1 - State Rank and Chart 2 - Rank per Capita to see our position relative to the leading states. Click on Metric 1 - Total NCRCs to view our progress over the last year.

**LOCs from Berrien & St. Clair Counties Push Total to 454**

We posted Employer Letters of Commitment (LOC) to the website from Berrien County and St. Clair County this month. Click here to see the Public List of LOCs for Michigan by County. Click here to view our progress recorded on Metric 3 - LOCs that illustrates our journey to 454 LOCs. We now have LOCs from 16 counties all across Michigan.

**10/25/2008 Community Colleges Active in Michigan's NCRC Movement**

Community Colleges are actively engaged in the Michigan NCRC movement. Click here to see a view of Chart 1 - Certificates that shows the colleges that have issued certificates. Macomb, Montcalm, St. Clair are listed in the certificate chart. Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan College are also issuing NCRCs at their M-TECs. If you are aware of other colleges or universities issuing NCRCs, please send me a note so I can edit this list.

**Michigan Moves Up to 4th Place in NCRCs Per Capita**

Michigan moved up to 4th Place, just ahead of Louisiana, in NCRCs per capita. Michigan has 3,962.19 NCRCs per million residents. Click to see Graphic 2 - NCRCs per Capita. We need 129,070 more certificates to match number one South Carolina with 16,949.10 NCRCs per million residents.

### **New Michigan NCRC Total is 39,378**

Today Montcalm Community College reported 1187 NCRCs earned by students this year. Thanks goes out to Dennis Dunlap, chair of the North Michigan team, and Amyee Carson, YOP Facilitator at Montcalm Community College for reporting the data.

#### **10/19/2008 St. Clair County \$25,000 Grant for NCRC Project**

Rene Stephan reported that St. Clair County provided a \$25,000 grant to launch a pilot project to create awareness for the NCRC.

### **New NCRC Website Project is Underway**

The Michigan NCRC Advocates website, as you know it, is our Phase 1 website. The current home page was designed to be our Resource Library page. New user friendly front pages are being designed and built right now. We plan to launch the Phase 2 website just prior to the Michigan WorkKeys Conference in November.

#### **10/14/2008 St. Clair Data Moves Michigan Past 38,000 NCRC Mark**

St. Clair reported strong numbers for September with 112 certificates. This September report drives the Michigan total to 38,005 NCRCs.

#### **10/9/2008 Michigan Cover Story in ACT Activity Publication**

The Michigan NCRC story made the cover of ACT's ACTIVITY publication.

#### **10/8/2008 Three New Employer Experiences Added to Website**

Three new employer experiences were added to the website for Kalfact Plastics, NK Manufacturing, and North Coast Components. Thanks to each of these employers for sharing their story. Employers please email Joel Westmaas if you want to post a summary of your experience.

### **KeyTrain Usage Expands with 8469 Lessons Passed**

Keytrain usage expanded greatly in September. Metric 2 - Skills illustrates KeyTrain usage in terms of the cumulative number of KeyTrain lessons passed on a monthly basis. Email Brian Heerdt to learn more about KeyTrain.

### **402 Employer LOCs from 13 Counties Posted on Website**

We now have 402 Letters of Commitment (LOCs) posted on the website. Click on Chart 4 - Employer LOCs and you'll see 319 of them. The other 83 asked to keep their names private. The 402 are from 13 different counties. We also have 20 more LOCs on the way from Saginaw. They will be posted soon bringing our total to 422. Metric 3 - LOCs illustrates our monthly progress.

### **9/18/2008 Michigan Moves Up to 3rd Place with 37,138 NCRCs**

Today we received reports from Montcalm Area Career Center and Capital Area Michigan Works! These two new field reports raised our total enough to move from fourth to third place. Click [here](#) to view graphics of Michigan's Rank and Rank on a Per Capita basis among the top ten states.

### **9/12/2008 2008 Michigan WorkKeys Conference Expected to Sell-Out!**

Registrations are rolling in ahead of schedule for the Fourth Annual Michigan WorkKeys Conference. This year's theme is Good-to-Gold. There are only 400 spots available. Be sure to REGISTER soon. The conference planning committee met earlier this week to plan the keynotes, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. This is going to be a fantastic conference.

The call for presentations closes September 24th. The final schedule will be determined and announced the first week of October. Click [here](#) to view the 2007 conference booklet. This year's conference will be similar in structure.

Luann Dunsford, CEO, Michigan Works! Association will keynote on Workforce Development Day. Jim Ballard, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals will keynote on Education Day. We will also have leaders from the State of Michigan in key roles at the conference (details to be announced).

### **Michigan DLEG NCRC Team Appointed**

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth has appointed a team to work on the Michigan NCRC project. Marcia Black-Watson is the manager and Stephanie Beckhorn, Ryan Doll, Sara Spielman, Mike Beamish, Patricia Higgins, Barry Reinink, Keenan Wade, and Cynthia Wright are members of the team. This is fantastic news for the NCRC work. Marcia was instrumental in the creation of the RCAR program and is very familiar with the NCRC. It is great to see this extraordinary level of support being provided by DLEG. On behalf of the Michigan NCRC Advocates, welcome to the team. We're all looking forward to working with you.

### **Michigan Works! Conference and the NCRC**

A number of NCRC advocates attended the Michigan Works! Conference in Detroit on September 7th, 8th, and 9th. ACT and KeyTrain also had exhibitor booths at the conference. There were two breakout sessions related to the NCRC. First was a report by the RCAR team (see 7/7 entry below) and there was also a presentation by Kathy Conklin, Cindy Leyrer and Bill Guest. Overall a great conference.

**8/4/2008**

### **July 31st Report: Michigan NCRC Total Increases to 35,369**

The NCRC Advocates team met this morning to update the numbers in the database and our charts and graphs on the website. Liz and Rachael have been working hard to put all of the Letters of Commitment (LOCs) into the searchable database. It is almost done. Click on the word County at the top of Chart 4 - LOCs and you'll

see the list of online LOCs listed by county. We remain 4th among the top ten states.

**7/7/2008**

### **Michigan Alone with More Gold than Bronze NCRCs**

Michigan is the only state in the top ten states that reports more Gold certificates than Bronze certificates. The Governor has been saying all along that Michigan has a more highly skilled workforce. Our data indicates she is right. Further, Michigan students scored well on the Reading for Information (RI) and Applied Math (AM) WorkKeys tests on the MME last year. 64% scored 5 and above on RI and 60% scored 5 and above on AM.

### **Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness (RCAR) Program to include Gold NCRC in Graduate Portfolio**

Michigan Works! Association reported in the Spring Newsline that the Road Construction Apprenticeship Program will include a Gold National Career Readiness Certificate in the set of credentials earned by each graduate. View details at the bottom of page 8 of Newsline.

### **June 30th Report: 34,377 with Lot's of Gold Certificates**

Data as of June 30th has been added to the website driving our total to 34,377. A number of schools have still not been reported, so we expect the total to continue to rise. We noticed today that Michigan is the only state with more Gold than Bronze certificates. This puts us, on average, slightly on the plus side of Silver. View the details in the announcements section.

**7/1/2008**

### **High School Data Drives Total to 32,551 NCRCs**

Data from high school certificates sponsored largely by the WIRED regions has been added to the website in Chart 1 - Certificates. This drives our total to 32,551. A number of counties are still not reported, so we expect the total to continue to rise. The current breakdown is: 7,955 (24.4%) Gold, 16,851 (51.8%) Silver, and

7,745 (23.8%) Bronze. Thanks to all of the schools that participated.

### **CLEG Unanimously Approved the NCRC for Michigan**

The Council for Labor and Economic Growth unanimously approved the MI NCRC Implementation Plan in their June 9th meeting. The MI NCRC will be delivered through the Michigan Works! system in partnership with the K-12 educational system, community colleges, economic development agencies, employers, business associations, and other local partners.

### **Michigan Adds "Locating Information" to the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) to Offer NCRCs to All Students**

School Aid Senate Bill 1107 passed the Senate on March 26th and the House on June 11th. This bill adds the third WorkKeys test, Locating Information, to the Michigan Merit Exam beginning March 2009. Review item #26 in the Summary or follow the above link to the Michigan Legislature page. Every high school student in Michigan will have the opportunity to earn an NCRC next year. Michigan is the first state to provide all students with two tickets to the future: a set of ACT college readiness scores, and a National Career Readiness Certificate. Michigan has leaped ahead of other states by being the first state to have a common skills credential in use in both the public school system and the workforce development system. This is an unprecedented level of alignment between high schools and workforce development agencies.

**5/12/2008**

### **April Total of 21,728 Results in Per Capita Rank of #7**

Data for the April monthly report is all in with a total of 21,728 certificates earned. St. Clair County Technical Education Center reported 250 certificates earned, Mid-Michigan reported 5,396 earned (preliminary data), and West Michigan WIRED reported increases in totals. We retain our overall rank of #4 and move up to #7 in

terms of certificates per capita.

**5/5/2008      KeyTrain Areas Added to Website Home Page**

We added two new areas to our home page to highlight KeyTrain and skill building. In the right column we added Our Favorites from KeyTrain to list KeyTrain publications. At the bottom of the center column we added Skill Building Tools and Results to highlight methods and best practices for using KeyTrain to build skills. We also added a link to the KeyTrain website to make it easier to get more information.

**5/3/2008      New KeyTrain Flyers from the Conference**

We added a new KeyTrain folder to the public documents section of the website. This contains a few of the new flyers from KeyTrain distributed at the conference.

**Great Conference Last Week in Indianapolis**

Over 35 of us from Michigan attended the largest ever National WorkKeys Conference in Indianapolis last week. The conference was best characterized by comments like "fantastic conference" from rookies, and "best conference ever" from those who have attended before. Complements to the ACT team!

**4/28/2008      Michigan Preliminary April Total at 21,194**

We received data from the first run of the Mid-Michigan high school tests. We expect that number to grow and we will also report progress at our Michigan Works! Agency partners at month-end. Nine of the ten top states have reported new numbers in the last five weeks. Read our revised announcement to see the new totals.

**ACT NCRC Video Added to the Helpful Links List**

We added the National Career Readiness

Certificate Video to the top of the list in the Helpful Links section of the home page today. This is a great tool for use in promotional meetings.

### **More Press Coverage of the WMSA NCRC Innovation**

Today we posted press clips from MiBiz and the Grand Rapids Business Journal reporting on the NCRC plans announced at the WMSA State of the Region event.

**4/27/2008**

### **April Implementation Team Meetings Fun & Productive**

We just completed the April round of implementation team meetings. We had two conference calls with folks from the UP. The other five teams had meetings that we well attended and productive. All teams are making progress on our short-term goals of: (1) staff the team, (2) add contacts to the website, and (3) upload NCRC data to the website. Dates for the June round of meetings have been entered into the MI NCRC calendar on our website. A schedule of all implementation team meetings is available [here](#).

### **WMSA State of the Region Event Highlights the NCRC**

The NCRC was a highlight of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance's State of the Region (SOTR) event held April 23rd in Hudsonville. Greg Northrup, Dick Ferguson, and Win Irwin shared thoughts about the value of the NCRC with members of the local press just prior to the SOTR. A press release and a business case in support of aligning \$60 million of funding to strengthen and certify skills of West Michigan workers over the next nine years provided the focal point for the press conference. Press clips from the Holland Sentinel and the Muskegon Chronicle are the first two results of this effort.

**4/5/2008**

### **March 2008 MI NCRC Monthly Report**

We completed the March monthly report today. The report documents progress relative to our targets for our fifteen key performance metrics and reports progress relative to the eight-step change process in our Statement of Work. Definitions of our key performance metrics are included in our metrics chart.

**4/3/2008 Michigan March Month-End Total of 15,493**

The March month-end reports are complete. A total of 15,493 certificates puts Michigan in a solid 4th place position among the leading states. A great step forward. We know that there are more than 25,000 certificates to be added as soon as the high schools report from the 20 counties across West and Mid-Michigan WIRED regions. We have also heard from a number of Career Technical Centers throughout the state that are offering NCRC opportunities to their students. Great job everyone!

**4/2/2008 Michigan Moves to 4th Place with 1,999 Macomb NCRCs**

Ann Stanton and the team at Macomb Community College added up the certificates earned at the college in 2006 and 2007. The total for that 2-year period reported is 1,999 certificates. The data report has been uploaded to the MI IMPL TEAM #2 SE folder in the public documents and the data is now included in our certificate report. This brings the total certificates earned to 14,614, moving Michigan to 4th place among the top ten states.

**3/25/2008 Key Performance Metrics Added to Data Reporting**

Charts and graphs for our key performance metrics were added to our data reporting section. These fifteen metrics are the thirteen included in our Statement of Work and two more to track our progress on our short-term goals. They are: building the contacts in our contact database and building the leadership of our implementation teams. Links to the metrics are in the navigation pane on the left side of the home page.

**3/20/2008**

**West Michigan Top in NCRCs per Capita**

You've heard the story line, if California were its own country, it would be \_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. Well, if West Michigan were its own state, it would be number one in terms of certificates per capita. The first announcement on our home page provides per capita data for the top 10 states. We are tracking this so that we can track progress toward our goal to make Michigan the number one state in the country in terms of certificates per capita. West Michigan (Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Ottawa) has 11,272 certificates and a population of 1,254,661 yielding 8984.10 certificates per million residents. This tops number one, South Carolina, with their 7726.80 certificates per million. High schools across twenty counties are offering the NCRC to their students this year and Michigan Works Agencies and Community Colleges are gearing up to issue lots of certificates this year. South Carolina watch out, Michigan is on the move!

**3/18/2008**

**St. Clair Reports 318 Bringing Total to 12,615**

St. Clair County Community College reported 318 certificates earned in 2007 today. That brings our total to 12,615.

**3/15/2008**

**Michigan #9, no #7, no #6 in Top 10 States**

Friday we worked on data summaries for WIRED West Michigan data based on calendar year instead of the WIRED Fiscal Year. We also organized and reported the February 2008 data for the first time. Data also began to come in from around the state. We now have reports from Gratiot-Isabella RESD and Ingham ISD. The number grew throughout the day.

Finally we reported a total of 12,521 NCRCs to the CRC Consortium. That is: 2781 (22%) Gold, 6125 (49%) Silver, and 3615 (29%) Bronze. That will move us up to #6.

We know there are thousands more certificates that were earned around the state last year at Career Technical Centers and Community Colleges. We will work on adding that up over the next few months to get a more accurate picture of Michigan's position relative to other states. We suspect that after all of the data is in we'll be in a solid #4 position. We'll see.

**3/12/2008**

### **MI NCRC Board Meeting Today**

The MI NCRC Board met today. It was our first meeting of the expanded board that includes all of the chairs of the regional implementation teams. Great meeting. Very exciting to be in a room full of raving advocates.

We agreed upon short-term goals for the teams. These goals are in the MI IMPL TEAMS General folder and also accessible via the link under Implementation Team Documents on the Home page.

### **Data Collection Design Day**

Tuesday was data collection design day for me. Hiding in spreadsheets can be therapeutic and quite relaxing for those of us that are OCD and want to stay that way. The words and numbers naturally line up so nicely. We drafted a concept for the data attributes for organization data, certificate data, and learning data. In straightforward terms, we need to label the data with things like what site reported it, what organization is that site part of, what regional organization is that organization affiliated with, and what state organization is it affiliated with. We also need labels like emerging workers, transitional workers, and incumbent workers. Basically we need to think about what reports we want to view a year from now and design the data collection so we can draw those reports from the database. This work will need significant investment. We'll need solid data collection and reporting so we can show investors our progress relative to our goals.

**3/10/2008**

**CLEG Meeting, NCRC in Michigan's Workforce Strategies**

The Council for Labor and Economic Growth met in Lansing today. Governor Granholm was the highlight of the day with remarks on workforce development and renewable energy job creation. We also heard remarks from Keith Cooley, Jim Epolito, Donald Mussen, and Janet Olszewski. Their commitment to workforce development is clear.

The remarks were following by member dialog in teams, with Andy Levin as moderator, regarding Michigan's Workforce Strategy. Although the NCRC was not a central topic of today's meeting, it was noted that the Career Readiness Certificate is in two of the three strategies discussed by CLEG.

The NCRC is scheduled to be a major topic in the June meeting.

**3/7/2008**

**NCRC Data Collection and Reporting Launched**

Today we launched the data collection and reporting sections of the site. We aggregated employer data by county to keep specific employer names and data confidential. We aggregated transitional worker data by county as well. The initial data includes the West Michigan WIRED data and Gratiot-Isabella RESD data provided by Dennis Dunlap (a one-page summary is in the MI IMPL TEAM 5 folder in Public Documents).

We did not collect data on skill increases last year so this area is empty. We will be collecting and reporting skill increase data as part of our 2008 work.

Please let us know if you have data you would like posted on the site.

**North Michigan Team Meets in Clare**

Thursday, the North Michigan Implementation Team

held their first meeting at the Clare ISD. We reviewed the presentation on implementation teams, looked around the website, and had lots of good discussion followed by an informal lunch in Harrison.

The team is off to a great start. Many thanks to Dennis Dunlap for your work as the team chair. Mike Blanchard brought a cross-functional support team from the Cadillac area. Certainly one of the NCRC hot spots to watch this year.

### **3/5/2008      Employer Meeting and Economic Development**

Joel Westmaas and Rachael Jungblut hosted an employer user group meeting today. United Solar Ovonic and Wolverine Coil Spring presented their experiences with WorkKeys and the NCRC to a packed room of employers at Cascade Engineering. Great job Joel, Rachael and team.

Rene Stephan of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County also attended the meeting. Rene is going to spend Thursday with Joel Westmaas to share and gather best practices for engaging employers in the NCRC while making retention calls. Rene and the team in St. Clair are working hard to make St. Clair a great place to be for employers that need skilled workers.

### **3/4/2008      Search Function Added to Website**

Try the new search box located in the upper right corner of our home page. With over 150 documents on the site, this will be a big help to find exactly what you're looking for.

### **3/3/2008      Website Development Day**

Today Jason and Andy spent the day with Liz and me to work on our site. We added a big SIGN UP link and added a box to highlight the Employer Experience summaries. We also completed the clean up of all of the documents. They are now all in the proper folders with complete descriptions.

We also planned a few more improvements. We will add a search function and a series of data collection tools to collect contact information for organizations, and data forms for NCRC data and skill building data. We're also going to build a form and online report for employer letters of commitment. We plan to have this stuff running so we can train the implementation teams in April.

**3/1/2008**

### **Employer Experiences Uploaded to Website Today**

The WIRED West Michigan innovation set a goal to create 25 "employer success stories" in 2007 during our prototype phase. The work was overwhelmingly successful, but, some employers encountered challenges and others felt they had not been at it long enough and had not made enough progress to declare the result a success story. Hence, we now call these summaries "employer experiences."

We hired Karen Wolf a seasoned trusted executive to gather this information from our employers so that an independent third party collected the data, wrote the summaries, and worked with the employers to gain permission to publish the summaries. We did not edit a single word. These summaries represent the real stories of real employers.

We uploaded the employer experiences to the "Employer Experience" folder in the public documents folder today.

### **CLEG Workgroup Meeting in Lansing**

We attended the CLEG workgroup meeting in Lansing on Friday. This group is charged with the responsibility to develop a plan and cost estimate for Michigan to launch the National Career Readiness Certificate as Michigan's work readiness credential. The group is also charged with a plan for addressing the soft skills needs of employers. For soft skills CLEG recommended a

"tool box" approach, supplementing the NCRC with soft skills training and where appropriate, the use of Job Fit, which is a job placement tool. This workgroup is helping to develop this in support of the subcommittees that have recommended the NCRC and Job Fit.

Alisande Henry and Sue Ann Searles of DLEG are the key administrators that support CLEG and subcommittees. Deb LaPine is also involved in the leadership of this activity. Kathy Stocking of Corporation for a Skilled Workforce is engaged with this team. They have formed a diverse team to assist with the work.

Thanks to the four of you and the entire team for your work. Great team and good progress. We are looking forward to the final recommendations to CLEG in June.

**2/28/2008 Southwest Michigan Implementation Team Meeting**

Debbie Gillespie hosted our first official meeting of the southwest Michigan implementation team. We reviewed the implementation team slide deck and accepted volunteers and nominations from the floor for leadership positions and participants. During the Q & A period we reviewed our metrics for the 2008 SOW. That led to a marriage proposal, which I must say was the most positive response to a metrics presentation in my entire consulting career. So, another great day.

The Benton Harbor area is buzzing with excitement. The fire is spreading to Kalamazoo.

Thanks to Debbie for hosting the meeting and your leadership of this team.

**2/27/2008 MDE to add Locating Information to MME Spring 2009**

We have all been hearing hints that MDE is going to add Locating Information to the MME soon. We were given permission to post Jim Ballard's letter on our site today. Please look for "MASSP

Jim Ballard Letter to Add LI to MME" in the section under Michigan Reports.

### **First Meeting of the Southeast Michigan Team Today**

Ann Stanton hosted the initial meeting of the southeast implementation team today at the Macomb Community College M-TEC. We had volunteers from the floor and we nominated others for leadership positions and positions on action teams. Ann will be busy in the weeks ahead in dialog with nominated candidates to finalize the leadership team.

We also looked at the website and agreed to get started on the work to grow our list of contacts into all of the appropriate organizations.

Great start! Ann thanks for hosting and for your wonderful leadership.

**2/26/2008**

### **Dick Ferguson - Coming to Michigan!**

Dick Ferguson, CEO, ACT, Inc., will be the keynote speaker at the West Michigan Strategic Alliance annual State of the Region event on April 23rd. One of the featured topics this year will be the NCRC, an innovation sponsored by the WMSA WIRED grant. Click on the description in the calendar on the home page to view details for this event. To register email Maura Warren at WMSA.

**2/25/2008**

### **Van Buren Tech Center "In-Service" Day**

I was invited to speak at the Van Buren Tech Center today at their "in-service" day. Thanks to all of you for your work to have all of your students earn an NCRC.

### **ACT Workforce Division Executives Visit Michigan**

Martin Scaglione, president, Scott Stimart, vice president sales, and Larry Miller, manager of distribution, visited us on Friday, February 22nd. Rachael Jungblut, Cindy Leyrer, and I

represented Michigan. We get extraordinary support from ACT. Thanks guys for taking the time to visit and dialog around ways we can be more effective in our work.

Mark your calendar. Dick Ferguson, CEO, ACT, Inc., will be back in Michigan for the West Michigan Strategic Alliance event on 4/23.

### **First West Michigan Implementation Team Meeting**

Liz Stegman hosted the first West Michigan Implementation Team meeting on Wednesday, February 20th. Lots of snow that day, so a more intimate crowd. Quantity may have been light but the quality was great. We have a good start and Liz has a good start on her leadership team.

### **2/17/2008 Michigan NCRC Advocates New Website Goes Live!**

We made the switch to the new website Thursday afternoon. A whole bunch of internet stuff I don't understand happened over the next 24 hours and here we are. Our new website is live at [www.michigancrc.org](http://www.michigancrc.org). Many thanks to Liz Stegman for uploading all of the documents and Jason Saidoo (our website guru) for making it all happen.

### **First Meeting in Mid-Michigan Region**

We had a pre-meeting in Saginaw, hosted by our new Mid-Michigan implementation team chair, Kathy Conklin. We had a chance to meet with a group of Human Resource Professionals. I gave a 15 minute introduction to the NCRC, then Jim Hummel of Dow Chemical Company provided an overview of Dow's use of the certificate and WorkKeys. Then, we added Clark Voltz, Superintendent of the local ISD, Bob Van Deventer of the Saginaw Chamber, and Steve Bennett of Mid-Michigan WIRED for a panel discussion and to take questions from the group. The highlight of the meeting was a preview of the M-MIT Public Service announcement with David Hollister.

After the meeting Cathy, Steve, Liz and I had a conference call with Irma Zuckerberg to discuss progress throughout the Mid-Michigan region and to nominate a roster of leaders for leadership positions in the Mid-Michigan Implementation Team.

Kathy, thanks for your great work and agreeing to lead this Mid-Michigan implementation team.

### **First Meeting in Southwest Region**

Debbie Gillespie hosted our first meeting, actually a pre-meeting, of the southwest implementation team at the Benton Harbor M-TEC on Thursday, January 24th. Lots of snow that day, and cold and windy outside, but we had a great time with a warm reception in Benton Harbor.

Debbie, thanks again for hosting this meeting and for agreeing to be the chair of the southwest regional implementation team.

**1/18/2008**

### **Bill's Blog Genesis**

We have some big goals for this year. The WIRED regions and the NCRC Board agreed to merge all of our efforts under the Michigan NCRC Advocates organization to enhance our coordination and the sharing of best practices. Our work plan is posted on the site as our SOW 2008 MI NCRC Statement of Work. Liz Stegman and I will be traveling throughout the state regularly this year to support the regions as they seek to establish leadership teams for each of the NCRC implementation teams. They will in turn establish action teams to accomplish the goals in our SOW. Then, we'll support these teams as they work to achieve their regional goals and the three core objectives of the Michigan NCRC Advocates. Please don't hesitate to call for help and also feel welcome to send suggestions for blog topics.

Bill Guest  
President and CEO  
Metrics Reporting, Inc.  
616.430.0828 Cell Phone  
bill.guest@metricsreporting.com

NOTE: The above 142 blog entries were exported from the old National CRC Advocates website on January 9, 2011 as part of the work to migrate to our new website. The older blog entries were originally on the Michigan NCRC Advocates website. We transitioned from a Michigan focus to a National focus in February and March 2010.

For the current blog visit: [www.ncrcadvocates.org](http://www.ncrcadvocates.org)