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Press Release - For Immediate Release **Michigan Works! services now available at LMC Bertrand Crossing Campus**

March 19, 2009, Benton Harbor, MI— Michigan Works! services are now available for jobseekers and employers at Lake Michigan College's Bertrand Crossing Campus, located at 1905 Foundation Drive, Niles. The additional location was created in response to a growing demand for jobseeker services.

"We've experienced a 70 percent increase in jobseeker traffic over the past year in our five, tri-county offices," said Michigan Works! executive director, Todd Gustafson. "In these tough economic times, it's more important than ever to increase accessibility to our services." Gustafson anticipates the organization will serve approximately 34,000 jobseekers this year. They have provided vocational and academic training for almost 5,000 jobseekers since July 1st.

The office may not be a permanent fixture, but the organization considers it a potential long term solution for serving communities in the Niles area. Services offered through the office include job search assistance, use of office equipment like computers and copiers, local labor market information, computer training and resume workshops. Michigan Works! also offers a variety of training programs through education providers such as Lake Michigan College.

"Lake Michigan College is pleased to join with MiWorks! to extend this additional service location to the residents of southern Berrien and Cass counties," said LMC Interim President Dr. Robert Harrison. "At times like this, every organization needs to find ways to help our residents get the information, support and training that they need so that they can go back to work as soon as possible. Offering a geographically convenient center will also help local employers identify potential job candidates and speed up the hiring process."

The office is located in Room 100. Hours will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office phone number is 269-697-4227. Michigan Works! is a non-profit workforce development organization providing the skilled workforce necessary to meet the needs of employers. The organization offers free services to employers and jobseekers and oversees five service centers in Benton Harbor, Buchanan, Dowagiac, Niles, Paw Paw and South Haven. For more information about Michigan Works! services, call 1-800-533-5800 or visit www.miworks.org. ###