

NEWS RELEASE

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MICHIGAN WORKS! KENT & ALLEGAN COUNTIES SEEKS NOMINEES FOR SECOND ANNUAL ESSENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

Awards program honors employees performing essential services many take for granted.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 27, 2009 — Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties is seeking nominees for the second annual Essential Service Awards to recognize people working indispensable, but traditionally, undervalued jobs.

“These workers are essential to a smoothly running business, organization and community,” said Win Irwin, chairman of the board for Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties. “Yet, as a group, this segment of workers has become virtually invisible in our society. Our goal is to help change that by recognizing the individuals performing these thankless, but necessary, jobs.”

Nominations can be submitted by employers or the community at large in a variety of categories, including hospitality, retail, healthcare, transportation, clerical support, food service, general labor, childcare, nonprofit/government, custodial, housekeeping or groundskeeper. Criteria for the awards are based on the person’s wage, work attitude and ethic, and work history. There will be 10 awards presented – one from each category.

“We are encouraging everyone to nominate exceptional essential workers that they encounter in their daily routine — the server who always has their coffee ready just the way they like it, the parking attendant who greets them with a smile, or the groundskeeper who keeps the ice off the sidewalk” said Irwin.

Michigan Works! will work with employers for nominees submitted by people who want to show their appreciation, but do not have access to employment information about their nominee.

Nomination forms are available at the Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties web site, www.michiganworkska.org, or can be picked up at Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties, 144 East Fulton street, Grand Rapids, or at the Service Centers. Completed forms must be returned by September 4, 2009 to the Fulton Street office, submitted via e-mail to acsetadmin@acset.org or faxed to (616) 336-4118. Additional information about the Essential Service Awards program is available by calling (616) 336-4100. The Essential Service Award winners will be recognized at the September 28 Economic Club meeting which will feature keynote speaker Bill Strickland.

About Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties

Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties provides a network of employment and training programs and services for employers, employees, and job seekers with the goal of creating a sustained workforce with the required skills to maintain and enhance the economy of Kent and Allegan Counties.

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