



Contact: Malorie Kersten  
Public Relations Coordinator  
p: (517) 371-1100 x 208  
e: kerstenm@michiganworks.org

**For Immediate Release**

## **Michigan Works! Association Honors Local Woman**

*Despite downturned economy, Association Celebrates  
Employment Successes within Michigan Works! System*

LANSING, Mich. (February 12, 2009) –Michigan Works! Association honored [Geri Sauls](#) of Comstock Park, Mich. for obtaining gainful employment through a Michigan Works! Agency at the 2009 Michigan Works! Association Alumni Celebration..

Members of the Michigan State Legislature attended the event and Sauls' district legislators, Senator Mark Jansen and Representative David Agema, presented her with a tribute.

When Sauls developed both a brain tumor and aneurism she had to discontinue classroom training for medical coding and billing, only one month after she began taking classes. After a successful surgical procedure to remove the tumor and aneurism, Sauls returned to training and was able to make up missed classes and remarkably graduate on time as a certified professional coder.

Through Area Community Services Employment and Training Council (ACSET) Michigan Works!, Sauls developed a resume to highlight a new career focus. She also received support searching for a position in her new field and found employment through Anesthesia Medical Consultants.

With encouragement from Michigan Works!, Sauls was able to prove to herself that she was marketable in a global economy because of her new skills and education.

"I thank Michigan Works! for giving me the confidence and the opportunity to train and locate employment in such a short time period," said Sauls.

Feedback from Anesthesia Medical Consultants, Sauls' employer, has been extremely positive as they have added numerous responsibilities to continue to expand her knowledge and experience.

Each year, Michigan Works! Association hosts this celebration to highlight success stories of triumph and achievement within the Michigan Works! System. In light of Michigan's economic downturn, this celebration features individuals who, with support from Michigan Works!, have sought gainful employment in Michigan through education or training in high-demand occupations and emerging fields.

The event was held Tuesday, February 3, at the Anderson House Office Building in Lansing, Mich. and Sauls was among the 25 graduates of the Michigan Works! System presented with an Outstanding Alumni of The Year Award

Michigan Works! Association is recognized nationally as the largest and most progressive workforce development association in the country. The Association's members are the Workforce Development Boards, Local Elected Officials, and Michigan Works! Agency directors. Michigan Works! Association was established in 1987 to foster high-quality employment and training programs serving employers and workers by providing support activities and a forum for information exchange for Michigan's workforce development system. For more information, visit <http://www.michiganworks.org>, or call 517-371-1100.

For more information about Area Community Services Employment and Training Council (ACSET), visit [www.acset.org](http://www.acset.org).

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