

NEWS RELEASE

MICHIGAN WORKS! RECOGNIZES STATE SENATOR MARK JANSEN FOR SUPPORT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., October 24, 2008 – Senator Mark C. Jansen, R-Gaines Township, a strong advocate for workforce development programs, received the '***Achieving Excellence in Leadership***' award today from the Michigan Works! Association for his efforts.

"Senator Jansen has been an ardent supporter of Michigan Works! programs and workforce development across our region and the entire state," said Beverly Drake, Executive Director of Michigan Works! Kent & Allegan Counties. "His tireless efforts and strong partnership with Michigan Works! has resulted in increased opportunities for local workers to earn new skills and train for new opportunities that otherwise might not have been available."

The *Achieving Excellence in Leadership* award is bestowed on those who have formed a partnership with the Michigan Works! system to promote workforce development in the state. Senator Jansen was chosen as a recipient thanks in part to his work on securing additional funding for No Worker Left Behind and his dedication to workforce development in Michigan.

Senator Jansen was elected to the Michigan State Senate in 2006. He was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 1996 and was re-elected twice, serving through 2002. During his first term, he was elected by his peers to be an assistant minority whip and was a member of the House Bipartisan Urban Caucus. During his second term, the Speaker appointed Jansen to lead the House Republican Policy Committee and to serve on the House Republican Campaign Committee. Before his tenure in the Michigan House, Jansen was elected as the Gaines Township Clerk from 1992-1996.

In 2007, Senator Jansen was awarded Michigan's Children Legislative Hero Award, Michigan Soft Drink Association's Legislative Leadership Award, Michigan Non-Profit Association National Service Champion Award and the Michigan Municipal League Legislator Salute.

About Michigan Works!

The Michigan Works! System is recognized nationally as the largest and most progressive workforce development organization in the country. Michigan Works! Service Centers located in Kent and Allegan Counties provide assistance to thousands of employers and job seekers annually.

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