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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Program Helps Dislocated Workers Start Small Businesses

Second FastTrac® NewVenture™ for Dislocated Workers is scheduled to start February 9th in Zeeland.

Regional Centers

Escanaba

Traverse City

Alpena

Harrison/ Mt. Pleasant

Saginaw

Flint

Grand Rapids

Lansing

Detroit

Mt. Clemens

Kalamazoo

Ypsilanti

ZEELAND - The FastTrac® NewVenture™ program aims to help dislocated workers evaluate business opportunities and develop an action plan for owning their own business.

The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center has teamed with Lakeshore Advantage and Ottawa County Michigan Works! to bring the FastTrac® NewVenture™ entrepreneurship training course to displaced workers in West Michigan. The first program was offered in November of 2008. Twenty-five dislocated workers went through the program and a few participants are reporting having started their business.

“When I took the class I wasn’t sure if I was ready to start my own business. The program helped me focus on one of my business ideas, and it allowed me to test my business plan with professionals and participants in the class,” stated Raymond Nowak, Owner of Fast Tek. “The NewVenture™ program gave me confidence and tools to start my own business.”

There was such an interest in the November 2008 program at Lakeshore Advantage that several dislocated workers have been on a waiting list for the next program to start.

The 8-week program will be held a second time at Lakeshore Advantage, 201 West Washington Suite 410, Zeeland, MI on Monday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning February 9th and going through March 30th. The sessions will be facilitated by Nancy Boese and Joanne Fowler of the MI-SBTDC.

Participants will develop a business concept through each step of the business planning process. Through readings and research, activities and action steps, entrepreneurs will plan and analyze their entrepreneurial vision by creating a thoroughly researched and tested business plan. It offers non-traditional, experiential learning with hands-on coaching sessions. Opportunities to network and learn from peers as well as the facilitator, business consultants, and guest speakers are a key part of the experience.

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The training materials are provided at a discounted rate by the nationally recognized FastTrac® NewVenture™ program. Due to the sponsorship of the Ottawa County Michigan Works! eligible dislocated workers receive a 100% scholarship. Eligibility is determined by Michigan Works! and participants must complete their orientation. All other participants will receive a reduced rate of \$350. To register for this program call 616.331.7370 or visit www.misbtDC.org/training

The NewVenture™ for Dislocated Workers program is a partnership with the Kauffman Foundation and the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center, located at Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business.

About MI-SBTDC

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center provides counseling, training and advocacy for Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, expanding new businesses, new technology companies, and innovators. The MI-SBTDC is located at the Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As host of the MI-SBTDC State Headquarters, the Seidman College of Business oversees the twelve-region MI-SBTDC network. Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest MI-SBTDC by calling (616) 331.7480 or visiting www.misbtDC.org.

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