

Michigan Career Pathways Alliance's 17 Recommendations for Talent & Economic Development

Michigan has come a long way and has created a business climate where companies can grow and thrive. However, there is one thing that is needed to ensure continued economic prosperity for the state, and that's a robust talent pipeline to fill the growing number of jobs available today. Michigan's talent gap is the state's No. 1 threat to a thriving economy.

This past summer, the Michigan Career Pathways Alliance – a joint effort between the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development – announced *17 Recommendations* designed to create a robust and diverse talent pipeline ready to fill the jobs coming back to our state.

Key highlights of the recommendations include:

- Showcasing flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum
- Expanding career technical education statewide.
- Setting in place an extensive career exploration class in seventh, eighth or ninth grade before students begin to select their elective classes.
- Ensuring state-funded CTE credentials lead to an industry recognized credential.
- Continuing the state's [Going PRO](#) campaign designed to help elevate the perceptions of the Professional Trades among students and those who influence them.

Roger Curtis, Director of Talent & Economic Development (TED) for Michigan, visited Grand Haven in October to speak with Grand Haven High School seniors as they kicked off "I Have A Plan" week and sat down with area manufacturers to share details about the Career Pathways Alliance and learn about the talent challenges area manufacturers are currently facing.

Click [here](#) to read the full list of 17 Recommendations.