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**INTERN IN MICHIGAN EXPANDS ITS STATEWIDE REACH WITH ADDITION OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

*The Traverse City Chamber of Commerce and the Prima Civitas Foundation Partner with the Detroit Regional Chamber to Expand Intern In Michigan's Presence in Upper and Mid-Michigan*

**DETROIT, September 29, 2009** -- Today, the Detroit Regional Chamber announced the addition of two new partnership agreements that will further expand *Intern In Michigan* as a collaborative statewide initiative and bolster the program's presence in Upper and Mid-Michigan. The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lansing-based Prima Civitas Foundation (PCF) join the chamber and the West Michigan Strategic Alliance to form a multi-organizational collective effort to attract and retain Michigan's youngest and brightest talent.

"In order for [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com) to continue to grow and remain a statewide resource for students and employers, it is important that we partner with other organizations across the state who demonstrates a mutual passion for the success of Michigan's future," said Richard E. Blouse Jr., president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber. "The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and the Prima Civitas Foundation are leaders within their regions and share in our commitment to attract and retain Michigan talent."

As a partner, each organization will be able to serve as a local point of contact for Michigan employers and universities, so that [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com) will truly be an initiative that encompasses the entire state. The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and PCF will provide *Intern In Michigan* with more of a voice and coordinating capacity in areas of the state that are not in close proximity to the metropolitan hubs where the program has initially created a presence. In addition, both organizations will be able to leverage their regional knowledge and existing relationships and programs to further the growth of [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com).

"The Chamber is excited to partner with Intern In Michigan! The value of the program to Chamber members and to northern Michigan is extensive. Business leaders have stated they are actively seeking young, smart talent," said Douglas Luciani, president and CEO of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce.

“However, connecting employers with talent can sometimes be a challenge and Intern In Michigan allows the Chamber to offer a turn-key program that helps businesses throughout northern Michigan find talent. It also allows a high-potential workforce to connect with local employers, and gives the Chamber yet another tangible means to help its members.”

The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce services the region of upper Michigan which includes: Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Travers, Kalkaska and Antrim counties. PCF, through the outreach of its Mid-Michigan Innovation Team, services 13 counties encompassing two million people, anchored by Flint, Lansing, Midland, Saginaw and the thumb.

"Internships are an important strategy for integrating academics and real-world job experiences, including network building, to better the chances of maintaining students in the area upon graduation," noted David C. Hollister, President and CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation.

Per individual agreements with its new partners, *Intern In Michigan* will provide strategic and financial support to assist with the efforts to promote the program and its Web site – [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com) – to employers and students. Recently, *Intern In Michigan* was awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to aid in its continued expansion and outreach.

Launched in April 2009 as a first of its kind, single-state smart resource for intern recruitment, [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com) centralizes available employment opportunities from across Michigan to create an online hub where college students and Michigan-based employers connect. Internships provide young, talented individuals with valuable experience and exposure to the many career opportunities available in the state, and a gateway to full-time employment. Currently, there are more than 4,950 students and nearly 500 employers that have registered and created profiles on [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com). Since its launch more than 260 internships have been listed and/or filled through the site.

### **About Intern In Michigan**

Launched in April 2009, *Intern In Michigan* is a first of its kind, statewide initiative that utilizes one central Web site to connect college students seeking internships with Michigan-based businesses looking to hire them. *Intern In Michigan* was developed in partnership between the Detroit Regional Chamber and West Michigan Strategic Alliance, along with Michigan's higher education community and is funded by public and private grants. For more information, visit [InternInMichigan.com](http://InternInMichigan.com).

### **About the Detroit Regional Chamber**

With over 20,000 members, that employ over three quarters of a million workers. The Detroit Regional Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in the country. The Chamber's mission is carried out through business attraction efforts, advocacy, strategic partnerships and valuable benefits to members. For more information, visit [detroitchamber.com](http://detroitchamber.com).

### **About the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce**

The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce helps to grow business and build community in the four-county region encompassing Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. It helps to grow business by promoting its members' businesses and delivering sales leads, providing cost-cutting benefits and sponsoring networking programs. It builds community by giving its members a voice in the growth of the region, bringing together groups to address the region's biggest issues and helping to recruit and retain enterprises in the area. For more information, visit [www.tchamber.org](http://www.tchamber.org).

### **About the Prima Civitas Foundation**

The Prima Civitas Foundation (PCF) is a regional community and economic development collaborative operating throughout the state and is centered in Mid-Michigan. PCF encourages and facilitates cooperative economic development projects among and between business, educational institutions, and governmental units. PCF assists the expansion of industries including next generation transportation, alternative energy, bio-manufacturing, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and homeland security. PCF is the home of the Mid-Michigan Innovation Team (MMIT), a 13+ county network of people, projects, and partners reinventing Mid-Michigan's economy, the Mid-Michigan Partnership for Training in Healthcare (M-PaTH), an initiative to retrain dislocated workers in health care related occupations and the Moving Ideas to Market (MI2M) initiative, whose focus is improving the entrepreneurship culture in Mid-Michigan. PCF is organized under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a not-for-profit organization. For more information, visit [www.primacivitas.org](http://www.primacivitas.org).

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