



Mid Michigan Community College

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Office of the President

November 5, 2013

Northern Transformation Corporation
2839 S. M-76
West Branch, Michigan 48661

Dear Promise Zone Committee

Mid Michigan Community College is pleased to offer its support to the consortium of partners, as led by the Northern Transformation Corporation, in the effort to obtain Promise Zone status through the federal government.

MMCC is deeply committed to the economic vitality of the Northeast region of the State of Michigan and for years has been providing economic development assistance through efforts of our employees on boards and committees to deal with issues related to economic growth. Since 1965, our core mission has also been to provide higher learning and workforce training to the area, and we are the unquestioned partner in this endeavor with area business, manufacturing and workforce agencies.

MMCC has numerous programs already in place to address economic woes. Particularly noteworthy is our work in support of the plastics industry cluster prevalent in our service area of Clare and Gladwin County. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, we are working with an alliance of local manufacturers to up-skill incumbent workers, create a more robust pipeline into this career field, and develop a seamless academic ladder that can culminate in the Plastics Engineering Technology program at Ferris State University. We also continue to address the need to reach children in K-12, offering them early success opportunities. Our early college and dual enrollment programs, as well as the proactive objectives of an Educational Talent Search Grant, have significantly impacted the area K-12 students and helped in readying them for the world of work.

We're anxious to partner in a Promise Zone initiative that can specifically lead us to even greater opportunities to assist in the battle against high poverty and low educational attainment, while finding additional economic development chances for the citizens of our areas.

We're pleased that the Northern Transformation Corporation and other major partners of Eastern Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Prima Civitas have invited us to the table to participate in the wonderful opportunity and remain hopeful that we will not only be successful in such a grant, but that ultimately we'll be successful in addressing the issues of poverty and education that plague our communities.

Sincerely,

Carol Churchill
President