

# WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

## ON THE SKILLED TRADES:

### ***Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan***

"As the demand for highly paid and highly skilled workers increases, this budget takes the necessary approach of aligning skilled trades promotion with rigorous training and educational opportunities to ensure a talented and career ready workforce that Michigan's economy can rely upon. Budgets reflect priorities and we applaud Gov. Snyder's commitment for making Michigan the best in the nation for skilled trades attraction, investment and employment."

-- *Chris Fisher, president, Associated Builders & Contractors of Michigan*

### ***Detroit Chamber of Commerce***

"Michigan's reinvention will only go as far as its efforts to address underperforming schools and increase access to higher education and career pathways, such as the skilled trades. Talent remains the defining issue for employers and regions looking to compete in the global economy. We encourage the Legislature to support the Governor's call for increased investment on these critical issues."

-- *Brad Williams, vice president of government relations, Detroit Regional Chamber*

### ***Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce***

"The Governor's multi-pronged approach to addressing skilled trades is critical as companies are having difficulty finding qualified candidates. We need to raise awareness about the dynamic careers that are available and match it with the funding employers need to upskill current and future employees. The Governor's budget puts needed horsepower behind this priority—building a strong, talented workforce through education and training for both current employees as well as those just entering the workforce."

-- *Rick Baker, president & CEO, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce*

### ***Home Builders Association of Michigan***

"The increased investment in technical education and skilled trades training proposed by Gov. Snyder is welcome news for Michigan's home builders. Michigan's economy is growing, and there are great paying careers waiting to be had in the home construction industry. This is a great step toward ensuring our state's builders have well-trained people to keep up with increasing demand."

-- *Bob Filka, CEO, Home Builders Association of Michigan*

**Magna**

"As North America's largest automotive supplier with a significant footprint in Michigan, we actively participate and support Governor Snyder's Skills Trade Training Fund and encourage the state to increase its financial assistance for the continued development of skilled trades in Michigan's automotive industry."

--*Scott Paradise, vice president, Magna Marketing and Business Development - The Americas*

**MichAUTO**

"Our automotive industry and the rapidly evolving smart mobility sector requires a dynamic and highly skilled workforce. Southeast Michigan has, in recent years, had the highest number of skilled trade job postings in the country, and with over 20 percent of that workforce over the age of 55, the necessity for young, talented workers will only increase. The Governor's commitment to Michigan's workforce in the proposed budget will help provide the crucial talent to supply today's economy as well as support future economic growth in the industry."

--*Glenn Stevens, vice president of MICHauto and strategic development for the Detroit Regional Chamber*

**Michigan Chamber of Commerce**

"The Michigan Chamber appreciates the Governor's focus on closing the skills gap by developing a new generation of graduates with a technical education or skilled trade and we look forward to diving deeper into the budget details. Education and workforce readiness is a high-priority issue for the Michigan Chamber, as our members increasingly report difficulty in finding high quality job applicants to fill the jobs they have available."

--*Wendy Block, director, health policy & human resources, Michigan Chamber of Commerce*

**Michigan Manufacturers Association**

"The Governor's enhanced focus on developing more skilled workers to meet the available jobs in manufacturing will help create new jobs and make Michigan more competitive. Our members tell us that the inability to find the workers with the right skills is a barrier to their growth. This is very positive news."

--*Mike Johnston, vice president of government affairs, Michigan Manufacturers Association*

**Small Business Association of Michigan**

"The governor's budget proposal regarding skilled trades represents the first step in a much-needed cultural shift toward re-emphasizing skilled trades and vocational training. Michigan has thousands of stable, good-paying skilled trades employment opportunities in the small business sector that are going unfilled because small businesses can't find trained workers. We welcome efforts that will give Michigan students the skills necessary to continue to grow our talented workforce and economy."

--*Rob Fowler, president and CEO, Small Business Association of Michigan*

**Michigan Senate**

"I'm excited to take the lead developing policy Governor Snyder has recommended that will make Michigan number one in the nation for connecting, educating and preparing Michiganders for well-paying careers in skilled trades."

--*State Senator Mike Kowall, Majority Floor Leader, R-White Lake*

"One of the top factors that could foster Michigan's economic growth is filling the skilled trades gap. As manufacturers and builders create jobs, we need to be able to fill those jobs. As the Governor has pointed out for four years, one of our top priorities needs to be making sure our young people are trained for the great opportunities that are available in skilled trades. I'm excited to work directly with Governor Snyder and my legislative colleagues to continue to restore Michigan's economy and get people to work."

-- *State Senator Ken Horn, R – Frankenmuth; Chair of the Senate Economic Development and International Investment Committee*

## ON EDUCATION:

### **Business Leaders for Michigan**

"A survey conducted by Business Leaders for Michigan showed that over half of all small, medium, and large business are having difficulty finding talent with the right skills to fill available jobs. This isn't surprising considering Michigan ranks only 26th in technical credentials per 100,000 of the working age population. We strongly support the Governor's recommendation for an increase in appropriations for technical job training and education to help fill these high-demand, high wage occupations."

"We also know that there is a strong correlation between more education and higher incomes. Today, Michigan ranks in the bottom 20 states for both educational attainment and personal income. To help raise both, we need to make college education more affordable. The Governor's 2016 proposed budget marks the fourth consecutive year of increased appropriations tied to performance standards. We applaud the Governor for continuing to make college affordability a priority."

-- *Doug Rothwell, president & CEO, Business Leaders for Michigan*

### **Great Lakes Education Project**

"GLEP appreciates that Governor Snyder is shining a bright light on the issue of early literacy and is recommending investments to support the type of interventions necessary to bring all children to grade level proficiency."

-- *Gary Naeyaert, GLEP executive director*

### **Grand Valley State University**

"Governor Snyder's proposal underscores the importance of investing in higher education even when the budget outlook is challenging. Students and their families are the winners because stable funding means less pressure on tuition."

-- *Thomas J. Haas, president, Grand Valley State University*

### **Michigan Community College Association**

"We appreciate Governor Snyder's continuing commitment to community colleges and his recognition of the vital role they play in closing the skills gap in Michigan. Strategically investing in community colleges and expanding skilled trades training opportunities will put Michigan on the path to give Michiganders the tools they need for good paying, in-demand careers."

-- *Mike Hansen, president, Michigan Community College Association*

**Michigan House**

"From Kindergarten to Third grade, children are learning to read, and from third grade on children are reading to learn. Reading proficiently is a gateway skill for the remainder of a child's education. Reading is critically important. I am very glad that Governor Snyder has put a spotlight on the need to improve third grade reading proficiency in Michigan.

-- *State Representative Amanda Price, R- Park Township*

"I appreciate Governor Snyder's approach to prioritizing literacy in his budget recommendations; it's clear that he has put some serious thought into this issue. I look forward to working with him on a bipartisan basis to ensure we provide the supports needed to improve literacy for young Michiganders right from the start of their educational career."

-- *State Representative Adam Zemke D-Ann Arbor*

**Michigan Senate**

"Early literacy is the foundation of a quality education and an absolute necessity for each child to reach his ultimate potential. I applaud the Governor's focus on third grade reading improvements because we owe it to Michigan's students to provide this pathway to success."

-- *State Senator Phil Pavlov, Chairman, Senate Education Committee, R- St. Clair Township*

**Western Michigan University**

"I was personally delighted to learn that, despite the budget difficulties identified in recent weeks, Gov. Snyder is standing firm in his commitment to restore higher education funding in our state. Any support we receive will aid significantly in our efforts to maintain access and affordability for our students and their families. It's the right thing to do for Michigan, and I applaud the governor."

-- *John M. Dunn, president, Western Michigan University*

**ON HEALTHY KIDS DENTAL:**

**Michigan Dental Association**

"Governor Snyder's proposed budget demonstrates his commitment to oral health for Michigan residents. The Michigan Dental Association applauds his decision to expand Healthy Kids Dental to Wayne, Oakland and Kent counties.

"In this time of great budget challenges, it is encouraging to see the proposed expansion to children ages 0-8 in these counties. Healthy Kids Dental has been extremely effective in addressing the access to care problem in Michigan's children.

"In addition, the governor has also recognized the importance of providing care to the adult Medicaid population. Oral health is intrinsic to overall health, and the decision to focus the program on increasing dentist participation should have a significant positive effect on the provision of care to this under-served population.

"Governor Snyder's bold moves prove his commitment to access to oral health care for low-income adults and children across the state."

-- *Martin J. Makowski, DDS, president of the Michigan Dental Association and a pediatric dentist in Macomb County*