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**HEADLINE:** GRANHOLM SAYS 'RETURN TO LEARN MONTH' HELPS  
CITIZENS INCREASE EARNING POWER, GROW STATE'S ECONOMY

**BYLINE:** States News Service

**DATELINE:** LANSING, Mich.

**BODY:**

The following information was released by the Michigan Governor:

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today thanked colleges and universities across the state of Michigan for their campaign during the first annual "**Return to Learn Month**" to attract Michigan workers back to campus to finish their degrees. The Governor gave this designation to the month of November to increase awareness of the opportunities for adult learners that are available in Michigan higher education institutions and of the benefits that go to those who earn college degrees.

"There are no two ways about it - when you **learn** more, you earn more," said Granholm. "Not only do individuals prosper, but Michigan's economy grows stronger when we raise the education level of our workforce."

Granholm has made doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan over the next decade a priority for her Administration, saying that to have a strong economy, Michigan must have the best educated workforce in the country. The Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, appointed by Granholm and led by Lt. Governor John Cherry, recommended increased outreach to the one out of four Michigan workers who have attended college but have not earned a degree.

The Lt. Governor labeled this first statewide outreach campaign, involving every state university and community college in Michigan and many of the state's independent colleges and universities, a tremendous success in terms of promoting the value of a college degree.

"Our **Return to Learn**' campaign is really just getting started," said Cherry. "These institutions have an ongoing commitment to welcoming back adult learners and giving them the support they need to finish their degrees."

Participating institutions were asked to develop their own unique ways to connect with the target audience. Some held open house programs for adult learners, some used broadcast advertising aimed at working adults without degrees, some waived application fees during "**Return to Learn Month**," and some created special scholarships to support students who come back to campus to finish a degree.

Each participating higher education institution helped prospective students develop a "**Return to Learn**" plan, a road map to degree completion. The colleges and universities also helped students understand how coursework they have already completed can be counted toward their degree goals and how they might qualify for financial and employer and union-based tuition assistance.

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Below is a list of participating institutions:

Alma College

Alpena Community College

Baker College

Bay de Noc Community College

Calvin College

Central Michigan University

Cleary University

College for Creative Studies

Cooley Law School

Davenport University

Delta College

Eastern Michigan University

Ferris State University

Finlandia University

Glen Oaks Community College

Gogebic Community College  
Grand Rapids Community College  
Grand Valley State University  
Henry Ford Community College  
Jackson Community College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Kellogg Community College  
Kirtland Community College  
Lake Michigan College  
Lake Superior State University  
Lansing Community College  
Lawrence Technological University  
Macomb Community College  
Madonna University  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Mid Michigan Community College  
Monroe County Community College  
Montcalm Community College  
Mott Community College  
Muskegon Community College  
North Central Michigan College  
Northern Michigan University

Northwestern Michigan College

Oakland Community College

Oakland University

Olivet College

Rochester College

Saginaw Valley State University

Schoolcraft College

Southwestern Michigan College

Spring Arbor University

St. Clair County Community College

University of Michigan

University of Michigan - Flint

Walsh College

Washtenaw Community College

Wayne County Community College

Wayne State University

West Shore Community College

Western Michigan University

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