

DETROITER

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Strengthening the Region's Workforce

The chamber works to create jobs, support talent

The Detroit Regional Chamber continues to work on developing and supporting the region's workforce. This year marked the 20th year the chamber has been administering the Detroit Compact scholarship. There are a total of 113 students attending private four-year universities, public universities in Michigan and non-participating universities nationwide. The chamber also secured slots for Compact students at the community college level. This year there are 88 two-year participants at community colleges.

This year the workplace flexibility awards program that the chamber facilitates, the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, became a statewide initiative. A total of 68 companies applied for the award.

Regional Skills Alliance

Michigan Regional Skills Alliances are part of a larger strategy to develop public/private partnerships that address workforce needs in specific regions and industry clusters. This year the chamber secured \$20,000 in funding from the Southeast Michigan Works Agency Coalition to support RSA goals and staffing. There are a total of 11 partners working with the chamber on this initiative.

There were a total of 48 semi-finalists, a record number nationwide. This year the chamber also secured \$10,000 in funding for the project. ■

Company Testimonial

Ann Spaven
 Training Academy Administrator
 Talascend



Talascend is a company located in Troy that connects hiring managers and human resource strategists with technical professionals in the engineering world. We've recently jumped into the process technology world - it's a great developing area that experienced designers from the automotive world who are looking for work may be able to fit into. I contacted Marathon to take a tour so the students could see a real plant and learn more about the job opportunities. That's where I met the Detroit Regional Chamber staff and learned about the Regional Skills Alliance. It's a success story already - Marathon has hired two of our recent graduates; they work in the Detroit facility.

The competitive edge goes to fast businesses.

"We rely heavily on Comcast for our telecommunication services. The Palace just wouldn't be the same without them!"

Tom Wilson
 Palace of Auburn Hills

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