

2025 EVENT RECAP

On May 15, 2025, MiCareerQuest™ Northeast introduced students to in-demand careers in northeast Michigan. The hands-on, career exploration event coordinated by Michigan Works! targeted 8th-12th grade students, offering interactive exhibits in construction, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and technology. The purpose of the event is to create awareness of the rewarding careers available throughout our region, many of which have a talent shortage today and are anticipated to have even greater demand in the future. This year the event was held at the Ellison Place in Gaylord, MI.

Over **1,100 students** from **22 schools** across the **11-county region** (Alpena, Alcona, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon) attended. The event featured **82 exhibiting organizations**, showcasing more than **125 in-demand occupations**. Over **60 volunteers** from Michigan Works! agencies, partner organizations, local community groups, and businesses assisted with the event to make sure everything ran smoothly. More than 320 working professionals participated in the event, volunteering their time and eager to share their passion for their respective industries.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with statements such as:

- "I had so much fun with my friends exploring different careers!"
- "There were a lot of different careers and I didn't know about most of them! I learned about new opportunities, like working on boat engines."
- "I liked being able to do all the hands-on activities to help me decide what careers I find interesting."
- "They explained things very well and each work station had things for me to do."
- "I liked how we could interact with all sorts of career workers. It's awesome how many people were there ready to answer our questions and keep us prepared!"
- "I loved the interaction with each career station. It was so fun! I would love it if I could go again and do it again!"
- "I enjoyed all the interactive stations and seeing the new things I can do after high school."
- "I liked how interactive and passionate everyone was about their jobs!"
- "I liked that we got to explore so many different careers and opportunities of what we could do with our future!"
- "I loved that we could do all the hands-on things that kids don't normally get to do."
- "I liked that we were able to talk to so many people from different careers all in one place."

"The entire event was very engaging and welcoming. Students felt comfortable asking questions and participating in the activities." - Andrea McKay, School Success, Alpena Schools

"Excellent event! Very well organized with so many opportunities. An excellent community resource – hats off to you!" - Missy Tallman, History Teacher, Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools

"Great opportunity for our students and we can't wait to come back next year!" - Ben Wilson, Assistant Principal, Cheboygan Schools