

# Q1 PARTNER UPDATE

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN POLICY CONFERENCE DRAWS RECORD CROWD

The 2023 Northern Michigan Policy Conference drew over 375 attendees and several notable guests, including Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, Congressman John Moolenaar, House Speaker Joe Tate, Acting Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Gary Heidel, new Acting Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation Brad Wieferich and Michigan Office of High-Speed Internet Chief Connectivity Officer Eric Frederick.

Legislators in attendance included Senators John Damoose and Michele Hoytenga, Representatives Curt VanderWall, Betsy Coffia, John Roth, Neil Friske, Cam Cavitt, and Tom Kunse.

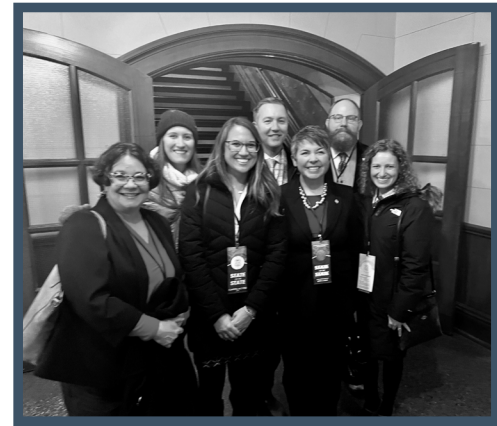


## ALLIANCE CONTINUES STATE OF THE STATE TRADITION



Alliance Partners traveled to Lansing in January to host a lunch with Gov. Whitmer, Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, and Executive Office staff before the annual State of the State Address. Alliance Director of Government Relations Henry Wolf provided remarks during lunch to outline shared priorities in the new term.

Partners also hosted a Northern Caucus Legislative Kickoff Reception and met with new legislators to discuss our 2023 policy priorities.



## ALLIANCE MEMBERS PARTNERS



## ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



## PROUD PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE



Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
Blue Care Network  
of Michigan

Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees  
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association





## U.P. 200

The U.P. 200 may have been canceled this year, but that did not stop Alliance Partners from making the trip to Marquette and participating in the weekend events and networking opportunities.



Partners attended the annual U.P. 200 Legislative Lunch and Marquette County Ambassadors VIP Legislative Reception.

We engaged in productive discussions with statewide leaders, including MEDC CEO Quentin Messer, Travel Michigan Vice President David Lorenz, Speaker Joe Tate, Senators Ed McBroom and John Damoose, and Representatives Jenn Hill and David Prestin.



## CAITLYN STARK GRADUATES U.S. CHAMBER LEADS PROGRAM

Following a competitive application and selection process, Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce President Caitlyn Stark was selected along with 34 other state and local chamber executives, economic development professionals, and association leaders to participate in the seventh class of this program.



The six-month program, consisting of in-person and virtual meetings, covered the entire talent pipeline, including early childhood education, K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce development.

This cohort of association leaders from across the country discussed and evaluated child care to transitional career experiences in the education field. National experts in the workforce development industry led this program to share best practices and trends so that up-and-coming leaders can develop solutions for future needs.

Congratulations, Caitlyn!

## NMCA SECURES MILLIONS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Alliance Partners have already scored big wins in a supplemental budget signed into law this March. We worked closely with Sen. John Damoose to secure nearly \$10 million to help build and expand career and technical education programs at North Central Michigan College and almost \$4 million to bolster Northwestern Michigan College's aviation program.

As the NMCA grows our presence in Lansing, we continue to achieve significant investments in workforce development initiatives.

## ALLIANCE PARTNERS APPOINTED TO STATEWIDE HOUSING BOARDS

Two Alliance Partners this year were appointed to critical housing authority positions. Gov. Whitmer made the appointments and announced via press release:

Nikki Devitt of Petoskey is the president of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of the Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership. She serves as trustee for the Petoskey Education Foundation and serves on the board of directors for the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals. Nikki graduated from Caro Community High School and received her IOM certification in nonprofit management from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management. Ms. Devitt is appointed to represent business advocacy organizations for a term commencing March 9, 2023, and expiring September 6, 2024.



The partnership's primary responsibility is to develop a strategy to implement the Michigan Statewide Housing Plan released in 2022 and make recommendations to MSHDA on how best to achieve its goals.



Warren Call, of Traverse City, is President and CEO of Traverse Connect. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Michigan State University and a Master of Business Administration in International Finance from St. John's University. Mr. Call is appointed for a term commencing February 23, 2023, and expiring March 10, 2026. He succeeds Deborah Muchmore whose term has expired.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority, established in 1966, was created to provide financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve safe and decent affordable housing, engage in community economic development activities, develop vibrant cities, towns, and villages, and address homeless issues.

## ELLIOTT-LARSEN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT EXPANSION

A highly talented and diverse workforce is key to moving our state forward. Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce goes beyond competitive wages and benefits.



That is why the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance worked to secure broad support in the northern Michigan business community for legislation to codify

Michigan's civil rights protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Because of our hard work, Alliance Partners were invited to attend a private celebration at the governor's residence and a ceremonial bill signing in Metro Detroit.

