

Grayling OSB • 4111 West Four Mile Rd. • Grayling, MI, 49738, 989.348.3434

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

March 19, 2019

Dear Governor Whitmer;

I am writing to share with you our appreciation of the staff and services we have received from the Grayling Michigan Works! office. Weyerhaeuser has been a long standing, top paying employer in Grayling, Michigan with many employees making their career within the company and staying through retirement. We invest strongly in our retention strategy by providing a healthy work environment, excellent pay and benefits, encouraging continual growth and education opportunities, and involving employees in decision making through leaderless shifts.

Michigan Works! has done so many great things for Weyerhaeuser over this past year. Career Navigator, Lin Kelly, worked closely with job seekers preparing their eligibility and paperwork for their on-the-job training. Business Solutions Professional, Alayne Hansen, completed six On-The Job Training Contracts for new hires who joined our team. During Manufacturing Month, Alayne also coordinated multiple Talent Tours in our county, and Weyerhaeuser welcomed 33 students from two school districts to tour our mill. Most recently we have on-boarded a student through the Michigan Works! Youth Work Based Learning program in hopes to develop a co-op program with a local high school.

For the past two years, Weyerhaeuser was awarded training dollars through the Skilled Trades Training Fund (Going Pro) which resulted in over \$146,000 allocated to upgrade skills of our employees and apprentices. Alayne worked with us to complete the STTF applications and develop employee training plans. This year's dollars will be used to train 62 employees and 6 apprentices in control logic, welding certification, machine maintenance, just to name a few. We are grateful our great State has these funds to help support the development of our workforce.

Michigan Works! has always opened their doors to us when we needed their help. Last month, their computer lab was used for testing our job candidates which helped us tremendously. Weyerhaeuser was also recently part on an Industry-Led Collaborative training, along with one of our neighboring plants, on Root Cause Analysis, which resulted in our team members learning to use problem solving tools to identify sustainable solutions to help us continue to improve our mill.

The Grayling area has many unemployed workers which makes it challenging at times to find and recruit qualified workers. The Grayling Michigan Works! resource room staff are continually investing their time and energy to assist job seekers with training and resources to fully prepare them for the workforce.

Weyerhaeuser is a proud Michigan Works! partner, and we will continue to collaborate with their staff to help place people back to work. Weyerhaeuser very much appreciates the efforts of Alayne Hansen and the staff of Michigan Works! We consider Michigan Works! a valuable resource for our community.

Regards,

Jessica Mika

Jessica Mika
Human Resources Manager