

Gov. Granholm visits Delta College to celebrate No Worker Left Behind program

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Governor Jennifer Granholm visited Delta Community College Tuesday afternoon to talk about the success of the No Worker Left Behind program. Granholm said over 102,000 Michigan workers have been retrained at a community college, exceeding the state's three year goal of 100,000.

In 2007, Governor Jennifer Granholm wanted 100,000 Michigan citizens retrained for new jobs by 2010.

At Delta College Tuesday afternoon, she announced that over 102,000 Michigan citizens have enrolled in the state program, No Worker Left Behind, with less than three months until the goal deadline.

"This is what we intended to do," said Granholm. "We are in a crisis with the automobile industry — we have seven times more automotive job in Michigan than in any other state and there is impact when our major employers show bankruptcy. We've got to be able to offer training that's accessible, not just anything, but in areas of growing need."

No Worker Left Behind is Granholm's strategy for providing Michigan workers with an avenue to transition into new jobs that are high in demand.

Granholm celebrated with graduates and current students of Delta College's Fast Start program, a 16 week program that trains students to be chemical process operators.

No Worker Left Behind pays for the tuition of that Fast Start program. Granholm commended students in the audience, saying it's not easy going back to school.

"After being laid off, the last thing someone needs is to sit in a college class next to a 20 year old, and having to know whatever level of algebra," said Granholm. "It's not easy to go back and be retooled, but these people have."

By 2016, Michigan is supposed to have over 650,000 middle skill level jobs, said Granholm — the fastest growing job in that category of skill.

Representatives from Hemlock Semiconductor, Evergreen Solar and Dow Corning were on hand. All three companies are taking graduates from Delta College's Fast Start program.

Out of the 102,000 people retrained through the No Worker Left Behind program, Granholm said 93 percent have been hired.

"That's an A in my book," she said