

MiCareerQuest is Employer-Driven

MiCareerQuest was created for and is driven by employers who want to create a talent pool for their industry. The following industry councils play a key role in driving employer participation across the region:



Discover Manufacturing* is a collaborative of manufacturers, educators, workforce development, and economic development organizations working together to meet West Michigan’s manufacturing talent needs.



The Construction Workforce Development Alliance of West Michigan (CWDA) was formed by three trade organizations to encourage youth to put their minds and hands to work in the growing, exciting and rewarding field of construction.



The West Michigan Health Careers Council* is an employer-led collaborative effort to build a pipeline of health care talent by developing pools of qualified candidates, utilizing proven assessment tools, engaging in training programs, opening access to training funding streams and more.



West Michigan Tech Talent (WMTT)* is a collaborative effort by local employers to expand and enhance the IT workforce by supporting existing local resources.



The Agribusiness Talent Council - West Michigan* is an employer led collaborative that seeks to expand the talent pool by promoting career pathways and opportunities in West Michigan’s agribusiness industry.

*supported and administered by West Michigan Works!



Support for MiCareerQuest

There is no cost to individual employers to participate in MiCareerQuest, but each industry is responsible for raising funds. The remainder of the costs associated with hosting MiCareerQuest is covered by funding from West Michigan Works! and event sponsors who understand the importance of exposing young people to career opportunities in our region.

In addition to industry funding and sponsorships, MiCareerQuest relies on in-kind donations and volunteers—more than 800 volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours each year!

MiCareerQuest offers a wide variety of opportunities for businesses and organizations to **invest in the future of West Michigan**. For more information, please contact us at info@micareerquest.org or visit our website at micareerquest.org.



Invest in the future of West Michigan

micareerquest.org

Hosted by West Michigan employers, West Michigan Works! and regional ISDs

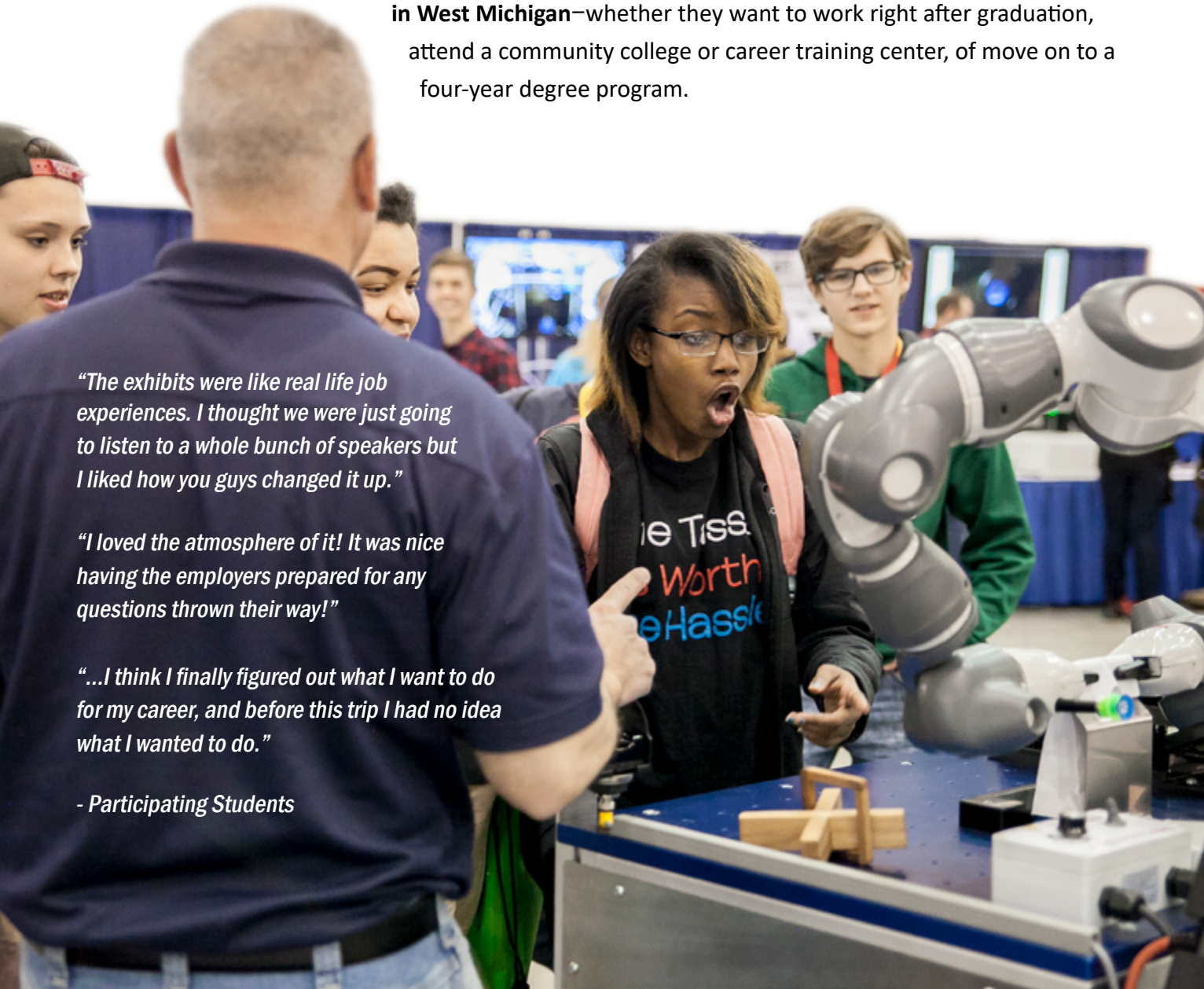
What is MiCareerQuest?

MiCareerQuest™ is not your average career fair. In fact, it’s not a career fair at all. It’s a career exploration experience.

MiCareerQuest was created in response to employers’ need for future talent in the region’s high-demand industries: advanced manufacturing, construction, health sciences and information technology.

During the event, middle and high school students rotate through quadrants highlighting the four industries. Interactive exhibits, created by employers, showcase various in-demand occupations. Students use the tools of the trade and talk with professionals who do these jobs every day.

MiCareerQuest opens students’ eyes to opportunities for great careers in West Michigan—whether they want to work right after graduation, attend a community college or career training center, or move on to a four-year degree program.



“The exhibits were like real life job experiences. I thought we were just going to listen to a whole bunch of speakers but I liked how you guys changed it up.”

“I loved the atmosphere of it! It was nice having the employers prepared for any questions thrown their way!”

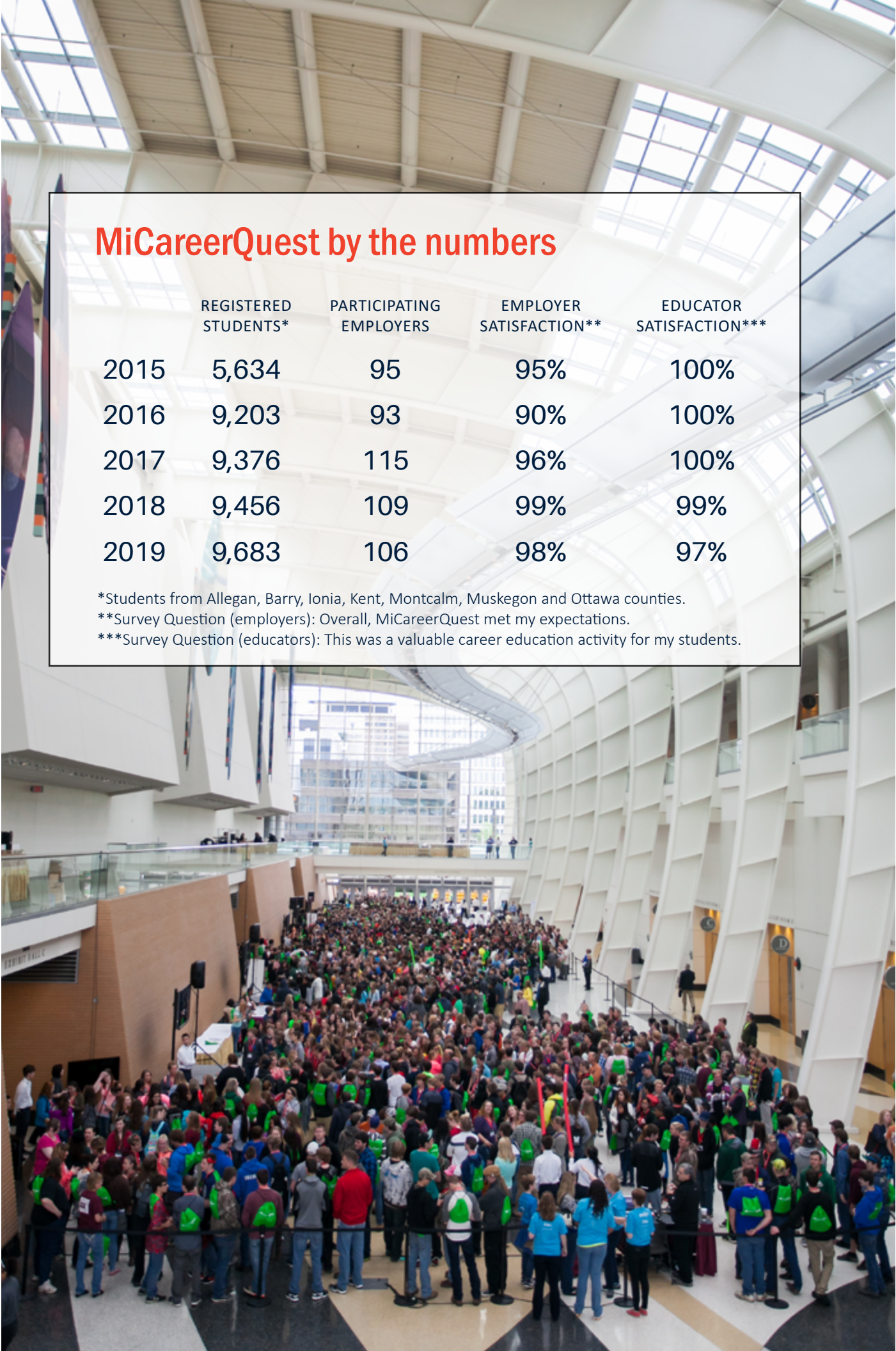
“...I think I finally figured out what I want to do for my career, and before this trip I had no idea what I wanted to do.”

- Participating Students

MiCareerQuest by the numbers

	REGISTERED STUDENTS*	PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS	EMPLOYER SATISFACTION**	EDUCATOR SATISFACTION***
2015	5,634	95	95%	100%
2016	9,203	93	90%	100%
2017	9,376	115	96%	100%
2018	9,456	109	99%	99%
2019	9,683	106	98%	97%

*Students from Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.
**Survey Question (employers): Overall, MiCareerQuest met my expectations.
***Survey Question (educators): This was a valuable career education activity for my students.



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“We really enjoyed the hands-on nature of the event. Many of our students got to see what it was like to actually DO some of these different jobs and I believe those experiences to be invaluable.”

“REMARKABLE program. This was engaging, exciting, and allowed so many students to explore things not explored before. THANK YOU!”

“It was an amazing opportunity for students to discover fields they have never heard of, and being able to associate that work with a local company makes it much more “real” to them. We really appreciated the opportunity to speak with people who are actually doing the jobs every day, to find out what they like about their work and what training they needed to get there. This helps the students figure out how to choose their path to get where they want to go. Thank you!”

- Participating Educators

