

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Michigan climbs in 2008 State New Economy Index

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For Immediate Release

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan has climbed to a 17th ranking in the 2008 State New Economy Index, up from a position of 34th just nine years ago, according to a report released Tuesday.

Only one other state has experienced a greater rise – Rhode Island moved from 29th to 11th in the same amount of time.

“In spite of the current economic turmoil with the automotive industry, Michigan’s new ranking is positive and encouraging,” said Rex LaMore, director of the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development.

“The changes brought by digital technologies and innovation-driven economics are the future of the state in the global economy. And, it is important to know we can compete successfully with other states and regions across the globe.”

The State New Economy Index is generated by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. States are ranked according to how their economies are structured and their ability to compete nationally and globally.

Five categories are evaluated using 29 indicators, including: knowledge jobs, globalization, economic dynamism, transformation to a digital economy, and technological innovation capacity.

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LaMore also notes that the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development recently started a federally-funded project working with three northern Michigan regional planning agencies that will use some State New Economy Index measures to benchmark northern Michigan’s performance in the global knowledge economy.

“Using these measures will help gauge where we, the planning partners, and the stakeholders, want to go strategically,” LaMore said.

Working together, MSU and the regional partners and local stakeholders will design new economic strategies that address their needs, and community needs, most effectively.

“It’s encouraging to see our state move forward in knowledge economy sectors. Our collaboration with northern Michigan can provide an innovative model to accelerate the region’s progress. Our success here could lead to a model used to improve other areas in the future.”

MSU faculty and staff are working with three regional partners, covering a total of 21 counties in northern Michigan:

- ***Northwest Michigan Council of Governments***, including Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties.
- ***Northeast Michigan Council of Governments***, including Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties.
- ***Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission***, including Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties.

For more information about the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, visit <http://ced.msu.edu/>

To view the full report on the Web, see [2008 State New Economy Index Released](#)

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The mission of the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development is to “advance MSU’s land-grant mission by creating, disseminating and applying knowledge to improve the quality of life in distressed communities.”

Michigan State University has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.