MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
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Success Stories

July 2026

DANIEL — Dislocated Worker

After being laid off from a local sawmill where he had worked for six years, Daniel found himself facing the challenge of re-entering the workforce in a job market that had changed significantly since his last job search. While he had valuable work experience, he needed assistance updating his resume, navigating online job applications and rebuilding the confidence necessary to compete for new opportunities.

Daniel connected with Michigan Works! West Central, where he received a range of services designed to support his transition back to employment. Working closely with a Talent Specialist, he updated his resume, learned how to effectively complete online applications, participated in mock interviews, and received career guidance and counseling. He also received assistance related to unemployment benefits and supportive services as he worked toward his employment goals.

Initially, Daniel hoped to earn his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and pursue a career in the trucking industry. However, after encountering difficulties passing the CDL permit exam, he was unable to move forward with training. Rather than becoming discouraged, Daniel remained determined to improve his situation. With guidance from Michigan Works! West Central staff, he explored



other career options and continued his job search with a positive attitude and an open mind.

His persistence paid off. Through consistent effort and ongoing support, Daniel secured a fulltime position as a Tool & Die Maker with a manufacturing company in Cadillac. To help him successfully transition into his new role, Michigan Works! West Central provided supportive services, including mileage reimbursement to offset transportation costs during his commute. After being hired, he also received assistance purchasing required work shoes and appropriate factory attire, ensuring he was prepared and equipped for success on his first day.

Today, Daniel is back in the workforce and thriving in his new career. His journey demonstrates the importance of resilience and adaptability when facing unexpected setbacks. By remaining focused on his goals and being willing to explore new opportunities, Daniel successfully turned a layoff into a fresh start.

"Michigan Works! West Central helped me get back on track after losing my job," Danial said. "The resume assistance, interview preparation and support throughout my job search gave me the confidence I needed to find employment again. I appreciate all the help and encouragement I received during the process."

Daniel's story is a powerful reminder that career paths do not always unfold as planned. Sometimes success comes from adapting to challenges, staying persistent, and remaining open to new opportunities. Through hard work, determination and the support of Michigan Works! West Central, Daniel successfully found a new path forward and a rewarding career opportunity.