MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
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Success Stories

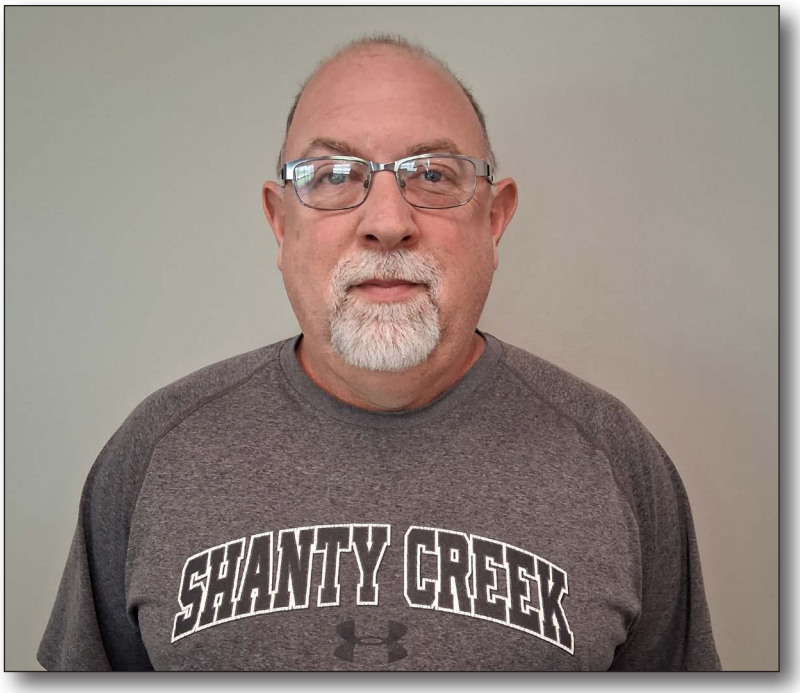
September 2026

JOHN — Dislocated Worker/RESEA

Losing a long-term job due to a company closure can be overwhelming, especially after more than three decades with the same employer. Despite this challenge, John has demonstrated determination, resilience and a commitment to building a successful future.

In late summer, John came to Michigan Works! West Central seeking assistance afterlosing his position with Harsco Rail, where he had worked for 34 years. The company permanently closed its doors, resulting in the layoff of all employees. As he began navigating this unexpected career transition, John worked closely with a Talent Specialist to update and revise his resume.

During the resume development process, the Talent Specialist discussed several training opportunities that could help John expand his employment options. One possibility was obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class A. John took time to carefully consider his next steps while actively pursuing employment and applying for unemployment insurance benefits. Michigan Works! West Central also assisted him throughout the unemployment application process.



To strengthen his job-search efforts, John began attending the weekly Employability Skills Workshops offered through the Ludington service center. To date, he has participated in seven weeks of workshops, covering topics such as resume and cover letter writing, employer expectations, goal setting, interviewing skills and other career readiness subjects. John shared he greatly enjoys the workshops and learns something valuable each week.

After careful consideration and discussion, John decided to pursue his CDL. Because he was affected by the permanent closure of his employer, he qualified as a Dislocated Worker. Working closely with his Talent Specialist, John successfully completed all requirements for training assistance and was approved for funding to attend Pinnacle Truck Driver Training. He is scheduled to begin training in the coming weeks and is excited about the opportunities this new career path may provide.

More recently, John was selected to participate in a Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) appointment with a Michigan Works! West Central Talent Specialist. The RESEA program is designed to help unemployed individuals return to work more quickly through career counseling, resume assistance, labor market information and job-referral services. During his appointment, John reviewed his resume, completed an O*NET interest profiler assessment, discussed his weekly job-search activities and explored current job openings available through the Michigan Works! West Central office. The RESEA provided valuable one-on-one guidance as John continues evaluating career opportunities and planning his future.

As John prepares to begin CDL training, he looks forward to gaining new skills that will create additional employment opportunities and help him earn a sustainable wage to support his family. His journey serves as an excellent example of perseverance and the value of utilizing available resources during a difficult transition. Through resume assistance, participation in Employability Skills Workshops, involvement in RESEA services, and ongoing collaboration with his Talent Specialist, John has transformed a challenging situation into an opportunity for growth and success. His positive attitude and willingness to take advantage of every available resource position him well for a successful future career.