



MEDIA RELEASE

PHFoundation
400 Quincy Street – PO Box 299
Hancock, Michigan 49930

Contact: Kevin Store; Executive Director
T: 906.523.5920
kstore@phfgive.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Hancock, MI] The Portage Health Foundation and Michigan Technological University announced earlier this morning that the two organizations have entered into a community health partnership. The partnership combines both organizations' missions, existing strengths and financial resources to create a collaboration focused on improving the health of the community.

Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz announced the partnership at the University's Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Aug. 6. "This partnership will have a strong, positive impact on the community," said Mroz. "It leverages the strengths of the University and the Portage Health Foundation for the benefit of everyone who lives here. It will improve health care and create jobs."

Mroz went on to inform those in attendance that the partnership will include three endowed professorships at Michigan Tech with emphasis on community health and wellness, medical informatics, and medical technologies. Components of the award will also include support in the areas of health research, and funding health scholarships, internships and fellowships and the application of health initiatives within the community.

As part of the award, Portage Health Foundation will invest \$2.5 million over five years, with the University investing approximately twice that amount. "Although MTU is the recipient of these funds, we do not consider this award to be an investment into the university," said Kevin Store, Executive Director of the Portage Health Foundation. "Rather, our commitment is being combined with MTU's contribution of nearly \$4.2 mm over the same period of time - this is a collective investment in the future of our regional community and its residents." Store added.

As the Portage Health Foundation has begun making financial reinvestments into the community, it has worked hard to make intentional and meaningful reinvestments. "We are seeking opportunities which contribute to the development of community-partnerships that take a long-term, tactical look at how our investments will be most impactful for our community." said Tim Baroni, Treasurer and Chair of the foundation's finance committee.

When the university first conveyed its interest in making a request for funding from the Portage Health Foundation, the discussions were candid and clear. The Portage Health Foundation expressed its desire to receive a meaningful request that took into consideration the long-term strategic initiatives of the university while aligning with the core areas of emphasis of the Portage Health Foundation - including health research, education, community health and wellness, and the development of

emerging and future healthcare leaders. If there was to be a partnership it would need to leverage both organization's strengths and identify outcomes that would directly and indirectly benefit the community and its residents.

"We believe this partnership – over time – will demonstrate the direct and indirect benefits to the community through increased access to higher education; enhanced educational experiences for the students at all levels of study; and through the application of actionable initiatives resulting from the academic and research efforts," Store added "We anticipate the ability to collaborate with the university's faculty members and have a meaningful engagement that will help develop and implement initiatives that will not only positively influence population health, but will also contribute to the community's economy through job creation and other activities associated with advancing medical technology.

The Portage Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that receives and contributes charitable donations which support the health needs of the community through enhanced philanthropy and community collaboration throughout Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.