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**For Immediate Release
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**Upper Peninsula SmartZones Partner Together To Host
Return North Professional Careers Fair**

HOUGHTON, MI – May 5, 2021 –

MTEC SmartZone, Innovate Marquette SmartZone, and Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (EDC) are gearing up to host the fifth annual Return North Professional Careers Fair. Return North, presented by TriMedia Environmental & Engineering, is aimed at attracting alumni, former residents and friends of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan back to the region.

A collaborative effort between all three Upper Peninsula-based SmartZones, this virtual event connects jobseekers with local, hiring companies and supports the attraction and retention of quality professionals in the area. Return North invites local professionals as well as those looking to relocate to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to join in this networking event to connect with employers and learn about current job opportunities. This event is free to job seekers and open to the community.

Taking place May 20th and utilizing the Career Fair Plus virtual platform, job seekers and companies interested in participating can register online by visiting return-north.com. The cost for employers to participate is \$200 per company or organization. Included in the \$200 registration fee, employers will receive their company logo on the official Return North website with a clickable link back to their company's website as well as full virtual booth capabilities to connect with qualified professionals.

Reflecting on his participation as a job seeker in last year's event, Luke Comstock states, "I accomplished more in an hour, in a parking lot with [a] hotspot, than I had for a month sitting in front of my computer trying to do online job searching." Connecting with hiring managers during Return North resulted in two job offers for Comstock who ultimately accepted a position with GS Engineering, an established multi-disciplined company focused on innovation and product realization. Comstock's position with GS Engineering provided him and his family the opportunity to relocate from Grand Rapids to Houghton, fulfilling their dreams of returning to the Upper Peninsula.

Return North organizers invite U.P.-based businesses as well as companies with open remote positions to participate and connect with job prospects in 1:1 and group sessions. Over twenty-five employers are currently registered for the event spanning a wide variety of industries including engineering, technology, cybersecurity, insurance and risk management, health and human services, higher education, law enforcement, manufacturing, and more. It is a fantastic way for employers to connect with job seekers and the virtual platform makes it even easier to connect with those outside of our region but desiring to move to the Upper Peninsula. Upon registering, employers would join the company of organizations such as GS Engineering, Orbion, Thermo Analytics, BHK Child Development, Aspirus Health, LJJ Construction, among many others.

To RSVP for yourself or your company, visit return-north.com and reserve your spot!

Event Details

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021



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Time: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM EST

Location: Career Fair Plus (Virtual Platform)

RSVP Required

Cost: Free for Jobseekers | \$200 for Companies

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About MTEC SmartZone

Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation (MTEC) is one of 21 SmartZone Incubators in the State of Michigan. MTEC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), its mission is to facilitate the creation and ongoing success of high-tech value propositions in conjunction with the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. Since 2003, the MTEC SmartZone has provided mentoring, technical support, and other services to local companies that have led to the creation of over 800 high-tech jobs in the Houghton and Hancock Michigan area.

About Innovate Marquette SmartZone

Innovate Marquette SmartZone was created to help coordinate, inspire, promote and lead business, government, academic and community leaders to transform Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula into a world-class entrepreneurial ecosystem. The SmartZone supports technology-based innovations, new businesses, new job creation and existing business expansion by leveraging the unique set of resources, experiences and advantages available in Marquette.

The mission of the SmartZone is to create a supportive environment and robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in which entrepreneurs in all sectors can be recognized and promoted and where new business ideas can start, grow and succeed while existing ones can continue to innovate, thrive and expand. For more information, visit www.innovatemarquette.org.

About Sault Ste. Marie EDC/ SmartZone

The Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is dedicated to bringing prosperity to the City through economic growth in all industries with the expansion of current businesses and the attraction of new ones. They help entrepreneurs take ideas and turn them into realities, and facilitate the process of creating something entirely new, or helping an existing business grow. The Sault Ste. Marie EDC/SmartZone is dedicated to the community and values the businesses that bring economic prosperity to the Sault. For more information, visit SaultEDC.com.

About MEDC

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's marketing arm and lead advocate for business development, job awareness and community development with the focus on growing Michigan's economy. For more information on the MEDC and our initiatives, visit www.MichiganBusiness.org. For Pure Michigan® tourism information, your trip begins at www.michigan.org. Join the conversation on: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

MEDC's Entrepreneurship & Innovation initiative establishes Michigan as the place to create and grow a business by providing high-tech start-up companies with access to a variety of critical resources, such as funding and expert counsel, from ideation to maturation. For more on MEDC Entrepreneurship & Innovation, visit michiganbusiness.org/entrepreneurship.