

# Michigan's Great Southwest

## A Community Resumé

Address: Located along 42 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline/ 90 miles east of Chicago, 180 miles west of Detroit

### OBJECTIVE

To increase awareness of the advantages of a business location in Michigan's *Great Southwest* (Berrien County region).

### EXPERIENCE

Home to world-class companies with a proven track record in becoming ISO and QS certified, increasing profitability, and growing sales internationally.

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### Available Workforce

- 80,000 civilian labor force in Berrien County.
- Tri-county workforce initiative and data to meet your needs



#### Multimodal Transportation Network: Water, Air, and Ground

- River barge traffic linking Benton Harbor's port facility to the Illinois River, all destinations along the Mississippi River system and the Gulf of Mexico, providing new and existing businesses with the most cost-effective form of transportation.
- Benton Harbor's Southwest Michigan Regional Airport (located just 2.5 miles from the port facility).
- Immediate access to interstate highway system (I-94, I-196, US-31).
- Rail access through CSX.
- Cornerstone Industrial Park and Elisha Gray Enterprise Park for Commerce & Technology located in center of multimodal network.

#### Low Utility Rates

- Indiana Michigan Power utilizes the latest nuclear and hydropower technology to maintain electric rates 15% below the national average.
- Michigan Gas Utilities ranks as one of the lowest-cost natural gas provider in the state.
- St. Joseph and Benton Harbor water plants boast excess capacity, low rates, and exemplary records for water quality standards.
- High-tech fiber optics offer efficient and cost-effective communications.



#### Benton Harbor's Renaissance Zone Incentives

- Approximate 65% reduction in real and personal property taxes.
- Exemption from Michigan's Single Business Tax.
- Exemption from Michigan's 6% sales and use taxes on purchases made for business use.

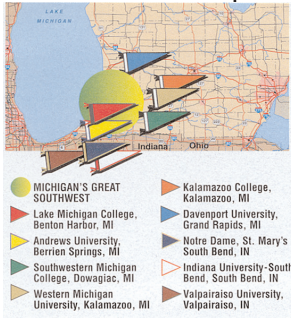
#### Available Buildings

- At reasonable rates for sale and lease.
- Build-to-suit, synthetic lease opportunities.

#### Available Sites

- Land available within a Renaissance Zone.
- Ready access to major interstate highways.
- Aggressive community incentive packages available.

## EDUCATION



### Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI

- Two-year associate degree programs designed for direct career placement or to prepare students for continuation in a four-year institution.
- Four-year bachelors degrees offered through on-site extension campuses of Western Michigan University and Siena Heights University.
- Western Michigan University has the first university college presence on a community college campus in the midwest.
- M-TEC<sup>SM</sup> at Lake Michigan College offers technical education including two-year associate and one-year and other certificate programs, and short-term training designed to address the specific needs of regional employers.

### Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI

- Fully accredited private university awarding associate, bachelor and master's degrees in five schools: College of Arts & Sciences, College of Technology, School of Business, School of Education, and Theological Seminary.

### Colleges/Universities Within Commuting Distance

- University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (45 minutes)
- Indiana University at South Bend, IN (45 minutes)
- Western Michigan University (45 minutes)
- Michigan State University (less than 1.5 hours)
- University of Chicago, Loyola University, Northwestern University, DePaul University, DeVry Institute of Technology, and Illinois Institute of Technology (all less than 1.5 hours)

## HOBBIES/ ACTIVITIES



- Several major annual fairs and festivals, including the Blossomtime Festival, Venetian Festival on the St. Joseph River, and the St. Joseph Art Fair (featuring the juried work of over 170 artists).
- Home to several historical museums and the Krasl Art Center (accredited by the American Association of Museums).
- The Mendel Mainstage offers a year-round calendar of top-name performers and Broadway plays.
- Home for 25 years to the Western Amateur Golf Tournament, which draws the world's finest amateur golfers each year.
- Eight public golf courses, as well as four private country club courses.
- 126 parks covering more than 4,300 acres.
- Tri-State Sailboat Regatta and Apple Cider Century Bicycle Ride through 100 miles of colorful forests and vineyards.

## REFERENCES

Jeff Fettig, Chairman and CEO  
Whirlpool Corporation, Benton Harbor, MI

Ken Kozminski, CEO  
IPC Print Services

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### Cornerstone Alliance

38 W. Wall St., P.O. Box 428 • Benton Harbor, MI 49023-0428  
Phone: (269) 925-6100 • [www.gomichigan.com](http://www.gomichigan.com)

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