

I thought you would like to see some of the items I was referencing at our December Board meeting per Governor Snyder's activities and commitment to the UP.

I have worked with a lot of Governors and this Governor has done more for the UP than any that I can remember. I am very happy he will be our commencement speaker.

Jim

Economy

- Under the leadership of Governor Snyder Michigan has erased a \$1.5 billion structural deficit and has completely reversed the trajectory of our economy from the lost decade when we witnessed an exodus of our young people and Michigan lost more jobs than any other state.
- Rather than forcing shutdowns of government over gridlock in Lansing, Rick Snyder has guided Michigan through seven straight balanced budgets on time while investing more in priorities like education, public safety, and the health and welfare of Michiganders.
- Michigan under Rick Snyder has added 515,000 private sector jobs and currently has the lowest unemployment in 17 years. Michigan is the number one state in job growth among Great Lakes states, sixth overall in the nation, and first overall in manufacturing job growth.
- Fiscal Responsibility – Michigan's Rainy Day Fund is now at \$886 million, up from \$2 million in 2010.
- Governor Snyder has invested his personal time and expertise in working with regional business, education, and community leaders to organize the U.P.'s first region-wide economic growth organization: "InvestUP." Similar to other successful regional organizations, InvestUP is funded from private sector investors and partners with the U.P.'s universities, colleges, and local economic development organizations to promote the U.P.'s business climate and facilitate business growth through strategic economic development efforts and talent matchmaking.
- Rick Snyder has promised to reinvent Michigan for our youth – our future – and he has delivered. This is a record that NMU has been a partner in – you should be proud.

U.P. Energy

- From 2015 through 2016 the Governor Snyder brokered agreement between Cliffs Natural Resources and WE Energies to avoid massive electric rate increases (potentially up to 97% increase) across the U.P. that would have resulted from the pending closure of the Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) without baseload regional energy solution for the Upper Peninsula.
- In addition to this significant agreement to avoid rate increases, the Governor has successfully challenged past charges imposed upon U.P. ratepayers before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which will return millions of dollars (~\$17M) in overpaid System Support Resource (SSR) payments.
- Just recently the Michigan Public Service Commission issued a Certificate of Necessity that was necessary to implement critical terms of the Cliffs-WE Energies agreement brokered by the Governor.
- This leadership avoided up to 97% rate increases and resulted in a more long-term adaptable, affordable, reliable, and environmentally protective energy solution for the U.P.

NMU Initiatives

- NMU's Education Access Network
 - Governor Snyder recently supported a \$9.7M investment in NMU's educational broadband initiative to ensure every community in the U.P. will have access.
- Invent@NMU
 - Governor Snyder has supported the creation of the Innovation Marquette SmartZone collaboration with MTEC SmartZone, which broadens entrepreneurial support and innovation capacity between NMU and MTU and extends the legacy of the SmartZone program's success in the region (700+ good paying jobs created in 15 years so far)
 - Governor Snyder understands the critical opportunity that the SmartZone program has presented in the U.P. Well before running for public office, Snyder assisted in creating the original plan for the SmartZone when he chaired Michigan Strategic Fund.
 - The Governor also recently supported Michigan Strategic Fund investment to build capacity support between Invent@NMU and Innovate Marquette SmartZone. All of this action was supplemented with public support via two shout-outs to these collaborations in State of the State addresses.
- F.R.O.S.T.
 - Governor Snyder, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and Department of Natural Resources recently supported NMU's acquisition of state property necessary to implement its first-in-the-nation cold weather forensic outdoor research station.

Education

- Total state higher education operations appropriations have increased roughly \$250 million since Governor Snyder took office
- Total state K-12 funding has increased \$1.9 billion since Governor Snyder took office

Infrastructure and Mobility

- Under Governor Snyder's leadership, Michigan will be funding road and bridge infrastructure more than \$1.2 billion per year than previous budgets. This critical investment will keep Michigan motorists safer and prevent taxpayers from spending more in repairs in future years.
- Governor Snyder led Michigan to become a world leader in advancements in mobility. In 2016, Governor Snyder signed legislation allowing Michigan to become a leader in testing, manufacturing, and operation of intelligent vehicles. Michigan now has the largest corridor in the country outfitted with vehicle-to-infrastructure technology. Today, Michigan is home to 2,200 automotive research and development centers that represent more than 75 percent of U.S. auto R&D spending.

Public Health

- Healthy Michigan – Governor Snyder led the charge to implement Medicaid under the ACA and implement the Healthy Michigan program. As a result, roughly 673,000 Michigan citizens are currently enrolled, 16,000 of which reside in the U.P.
- Governor Snyder and Lt. Governor Calley have also partnered with the Michigan Legislature to implement best-practice tracking and treatment protocols to combat the nationwide opioid abuse epidemic.

Public Safety

- Since Governor Snyder has taken office, thirteen Michigan State Police academies have graduated new state troopers to keep us safe. The FY18 budget invests in another MSP trooper recruit school, which aims to bring trooper strength to its highest level in more than 15 years.
- Numerous (3-4?) academies for Conservation Officers have also been invested