

MICHIGAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Questions and Answers

Mission

The mission of the Michigan Virtual University is to meet the education and training needs of industry and its current and prospective employees, through the innovative use of learning technology. MVU is a flexible, lean, responsive, market driven organization that contracts for the delivery of its programs and services. MVU will be responsive, maintain a low cost structure, and fully utilize available education and training providers which are best able to deliver their services anytime and anywhere through the use of distance learning technologies.

What is the Michigan Virtual University?

The Michigan Virtual University is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 Michigan corporation, which was established in April, 1998 to fulfill the mission cited above.

Who founded the corporation and who will govern it?

MVU was founded by the Governor and the Michigan Jobs Commission, in collaboration with several major industries in the state. It will be governed by a board of directors, comprised of four educational leaders, two representatives of the Michigan Jobs Commission, and a minimum of six representatives of the Michigan employer community.

Why is MVU being created?

The primary motivation for its creation is to provide high-quality, convenient and cost-effective education and training to Michigan's current and prospective employees. MVU's programs and services will preserve and retain Michigan jobs, serve as an economic development catalyst, improve job training for Michigan's key industries, secure the global competitiveness of Michigan companies, maximize the Michigan Strategic Fund's return on investment in job training programs, and leverage the State's investment in education. A secondary benefit, however, is to assist Michigan's schools (K-20) in the transformation to the technological age.

Who is funding this initiative and in what amount?

This initiative is being funded by the Michigan Strategic Fund in the amount of \$30 million over a five-year period of time.

Who is managing this organization?

The Board of Directors is currently engaged in a search for a president of the organization, with a projected start date of September 1, 1998. In the interim, planning and preparation activities are being led by a four-member transition team, comprised of

individuals with knowledge and expertise in distance learning, public education, and private sector education and training.

Where is MVU located?

MVU is in the process of establishing its central offices in Lansing, Michigan, specifically at 423 W. Ionia Street. However, most of its operations will be distributed and located at other sites established by its contracted organizations.

Why should educational institutions be interested in this initiative?

There are a number of reasons why all educational institutions should be interested in this initiative. Involvement will provide access to:

- \$30 million in startup funds, which will support the preparation of students for work and continuing employment, and will assist institutions in the transformation from traditional classroom-based instruction to learning which can occur anytime, anyplace
- continuing research on industry employee training needs
- continuing research on effective distance learning practices
- training opportunities for educators in the use of technology
- statewide, national and international markets
- a collaborative and the cost efficiencies which derive from that involvement.

Why will employers be interested in this initiative?

There are a number of reasons why employers will be interested in this initiative. MVU will provide:

- more convenient (anytime, anywhere) training and education opportunities for employees
- training opportunities which, when considering all costs, are more cost-effective than current modes of delivery
- access to the very best education and training programs available in Michigan, the nation, and the world
- the opportunity to maintain corporate competitive advantage in a knowledge-based international marketplace.

How is this initiative different from what traditional educational institutions are doing now?

The *primary* focus of MVU is preparation and continuing education and training of the workforce. All curricula will be competency-based. And all curricula will be offered anytime, anywhere via the most convenient and effective learning technologies.