

### Automotive Workforce Challenges in Recovery

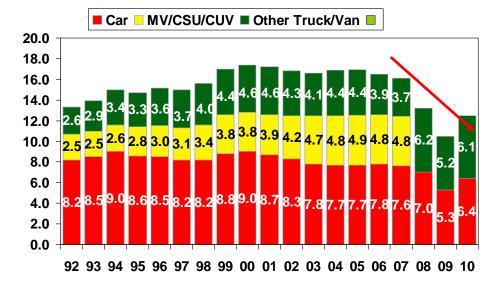
October 8, 2009
Kristin Dziczek
Director, Labor and Industry Group
Center for Automotive Research
Ann Arbor, MI

## Into the Abyss

- Ongoing restructuring
- Low price premium
- High cost structure

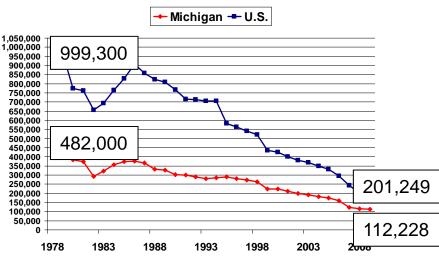
- Product mix
- Energy prices
- Credit crisis

Total U.S. Sales of Light Vehicles: 1992 - 2009



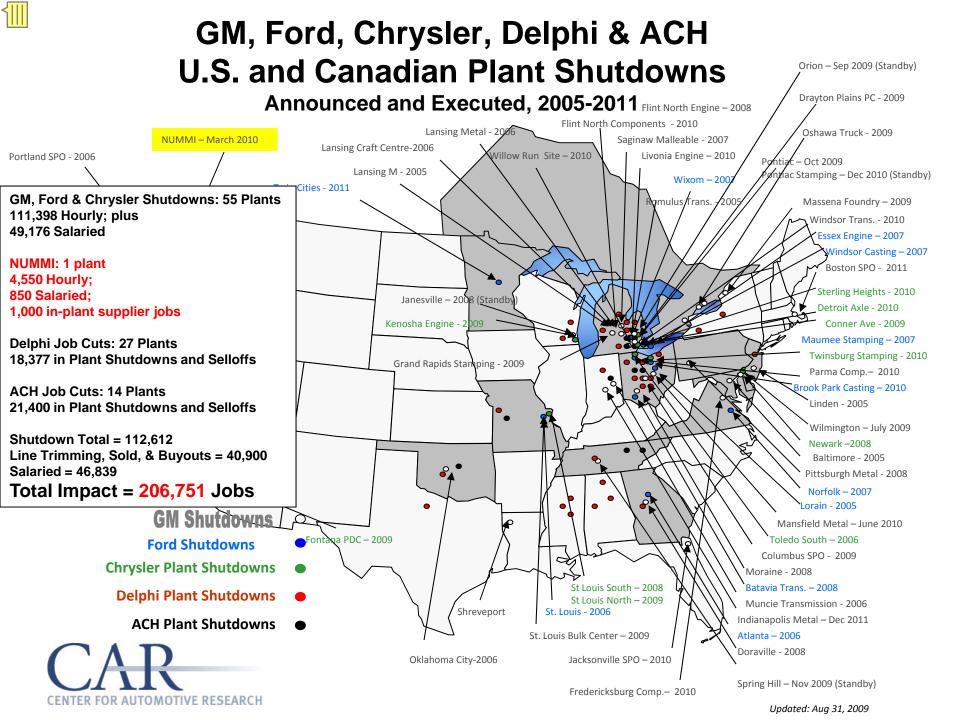
Year

Detroit 3 U.S. and MI Hourly Employment 1978 – Feb 2009



Source: Ward's Automotive Reports

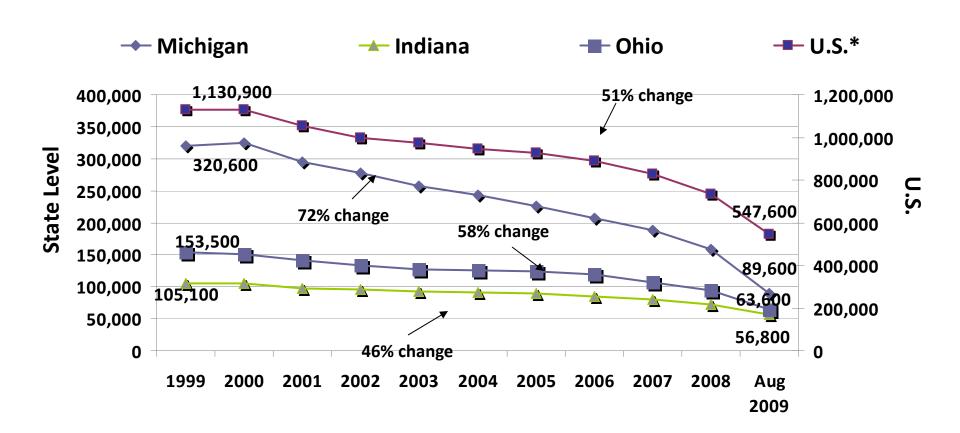








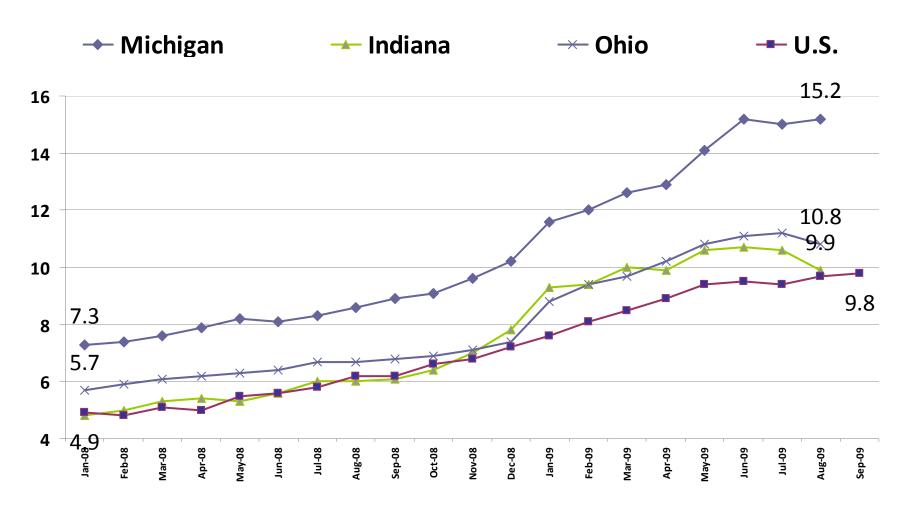
# The Darkest Part of the Tunnel... Motor Vehicle & Parts Manufacturing Employment 1999 – July 2009





\*U.S. Through Aug 2009 Source: BLS, U.S. DOL, Sep 2009

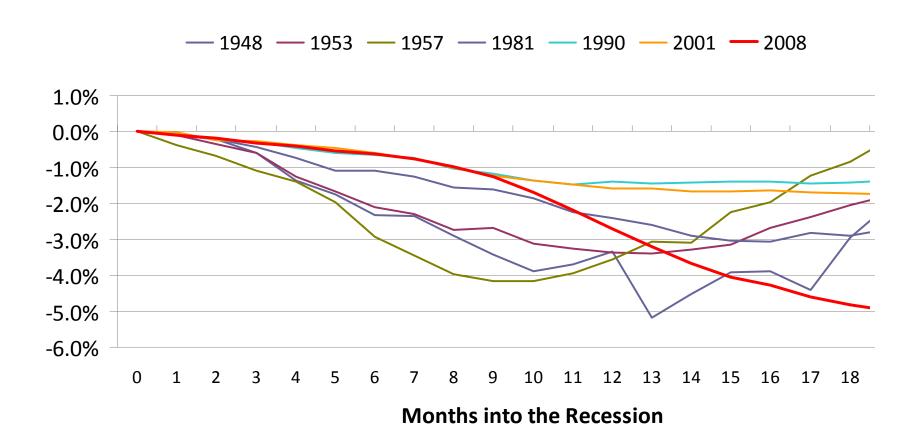
# **Unemployment Rate Seasonally Adjusted**







## Accumulated Employment Losses as % of Pre-Recession Employment





### Cuts are Not Over

#### **AUTO NEWS**

AUTO NEWS | FORD | GM | CHRYSLER | AUTO SHOWS

POSTED: OCT. 8, 2009

CEO REPORT

More jobs to be cut at GM, CEO's report says

BY TIM HIGGINS FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER

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Three months into its life after bankruptcy, General Motors Co. has a workers than called for by year's end under its previously stated tur



9-Month

Most of the extra positions are held by given GM's recent plans to add shifts at unclear how many more positions will

"GM's hourly employment fell 21% to 49,200 workers as of Wednesday -- about 9,200 short of the turnaround plan's yearend goal."

"GM's U.S. salaried workforce has dropped 18.2% to 24,300 as of Thursday, which is about 1,300 short of the turnaround plan's year-end goal."



# Some Hiring May Be on the Horizon Due to...

- Market recovery
- Underlying demographics
- Labor cost parity possible under 2007 and 2009 agreements with the UAW
- Technological changes
  - Need to meet new fuel economy and GHG mandates
  - Improved safety
  - Increased electronics content for safety, connectivity and entertainment



...But it may not be much, and it may not be here.

## News About Automotive Hiring!

#### Chrysler trying to refit Fiats so they sell in US

By TOM KRISHER (AP) - Sep 25, 2009

DETROIT — Chrysler thinks its future may be in a new lineup of smaller cars based on models from Italian partner Fiat. The question is how to make them for Americans put off by stiff suspensions, firm seats and — perish the thought — not enough cupholders.

The problem is further complicated because Americans generally are plumper and taller than Western Europeans, and they're used to driving fatter and longer cars on wider roads.

It's a dilemma faced by nearly all automakers as they try to hold down development costs by tailoring cars to sell around the globe. But at no company is the problem more acute than Chrysler, where a wholesale lineup change is needed quickly to boost sagging sales.

"...Chrysler's 25 percent cut in salaried employees last year has left it with too few engineers and designers to get the work done on multiple models...Chrysler managers have spoken with union officials about bringing back laid-off designers, and the person said there is discussion of contracting to hire engineers and other professionals who took buyout or early retirement offers."

#### **Bringing Back Workers**

"Walker Corp., a 56-year-old Ontario business that makes airbag, seat and audio parts for Toyota...is actually looking to add people with good math and computer skills to its work force of about 180."

"Precision Stamping Inc. in Beaumont will bring back some laid-off employees and put a second shift back to work..."





have come and gone, and those companies, along with Ford Motor Corp., the third of Detroit's Big Three, are learning how to run streamlined businesses and still turn out cars and trucks.

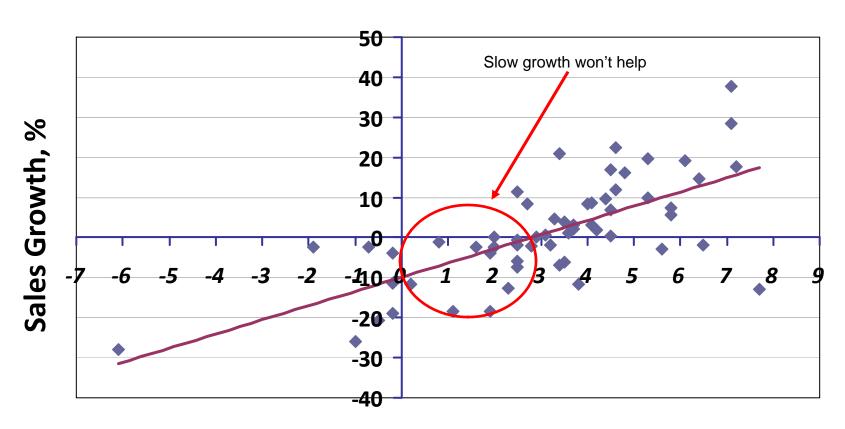
# But...for how long?





# Need 3% GDP Growth To Have Positive Sales Growth,

**US GDP Growth Rate and Vehicle Sales Growth Rate**, 1950-2009\*



**GDP Growth, %** 



## Wild Cards











### Reasons to Believe in a Rebound

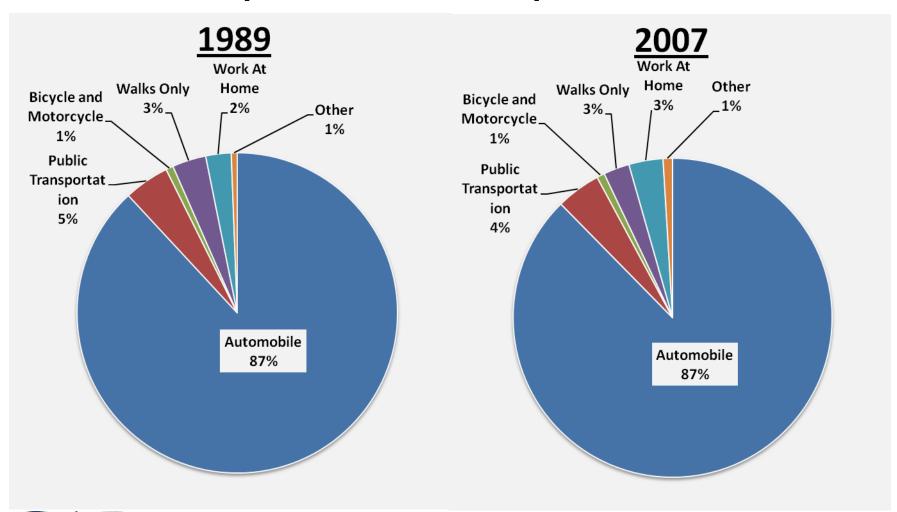


- No comprehensive public transportation system
- Vehicle miles travelled increasing
- Vehicles per household increasing in long-term
- Household formation increasing
- Vehicle stock decreased sharply and must be replenished
- Household wealth indicators stabilizing



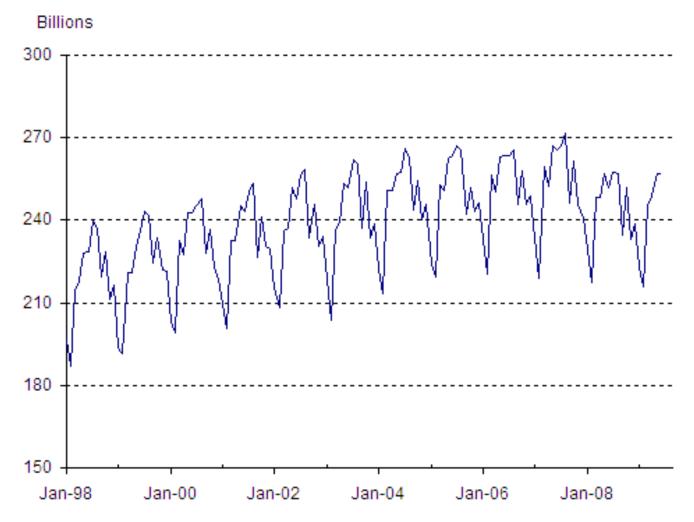
### No Substitute

### **U.S. Principal Means of Transportation to Work**





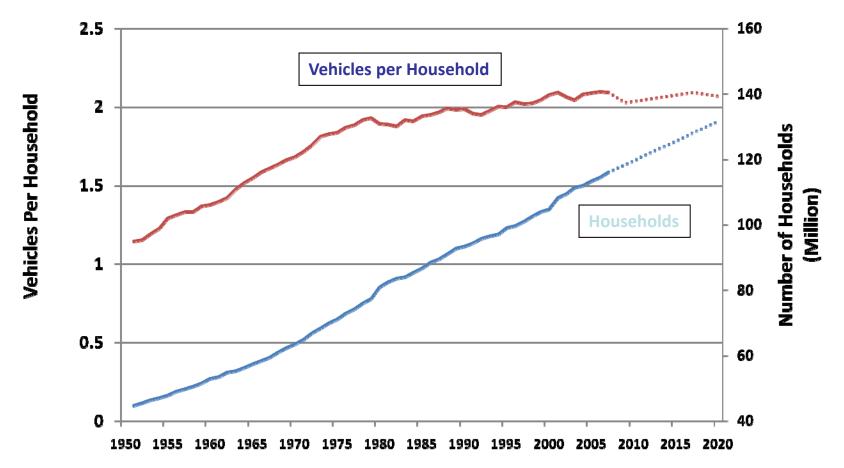
### U.S. Highway Vehicle-Miles Traveled





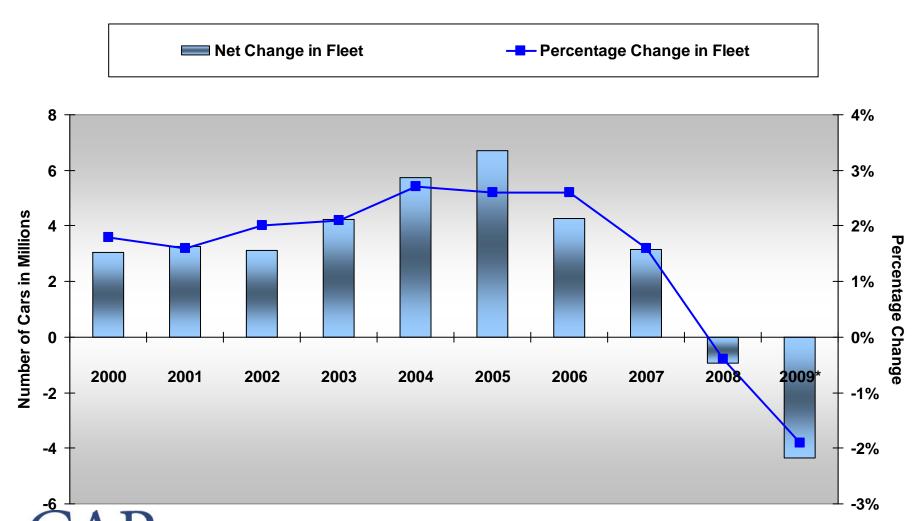
#### Number of Households and Vehicles Per Household

(adding 10 million households means 20 million+ more operating vehicles by 2016)





# Change in Auto Fleet – 2000 to 2009



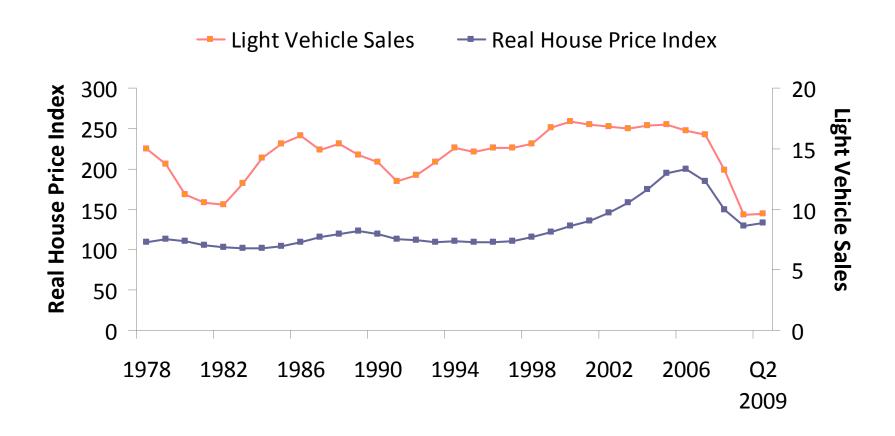
Years

Source: Ward's, R.L. Polk and Co.

\*2009 is forecast using the 2008 Scrap Rate and Light Vehicle sales forecasts from CSM and JD Power

### **House Prices are Bottoming out**

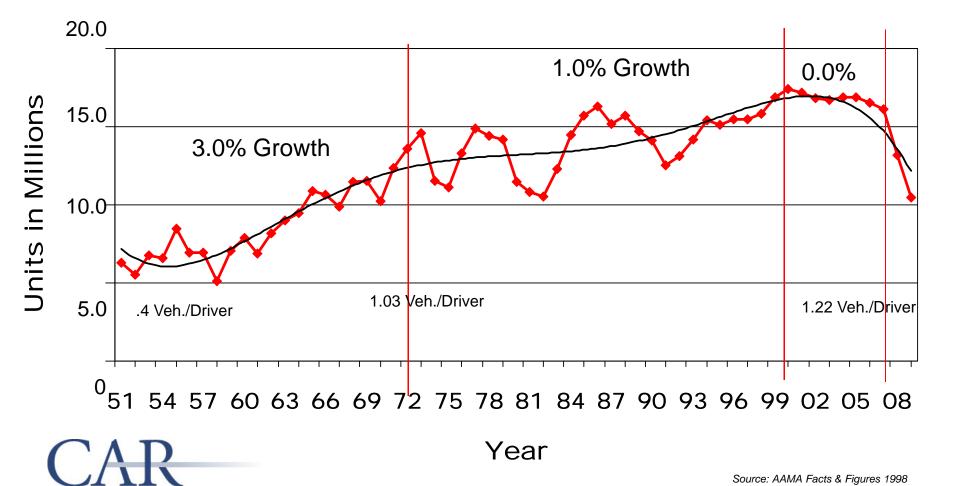
#### **House Price and Vehicle Sales**



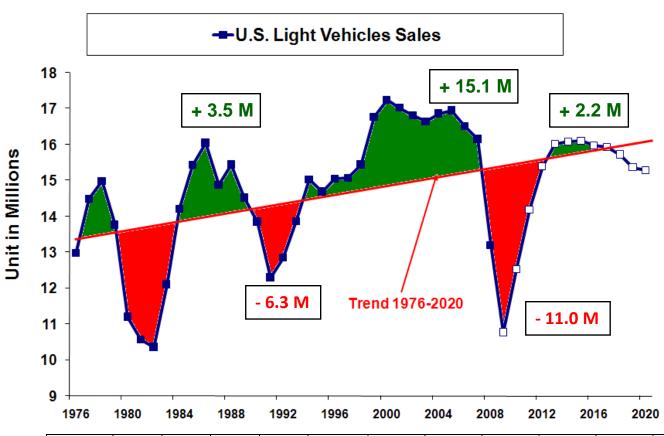


 $Source: S\&P/Case-Shiller\ Home\ Price\ Indices;\ BEA.\ Quarterly\ Sales\ are\ seasonally\ adjusted\ at\ annual\ rate.$ 

# U.S. Motor Vehicle Sales



# But Maybe Not a Very Big Rebound... New Long-Term Forecast from CAR



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
U.S. Sales												
(Millions)	10.8	12.5	14.2	15.4	16.0	16.1	16.1	16.0	15.9	15.7	15.4	15.3
May 09												
Forecasts	11.0	13.2	15.0	15.9	16.5	16.8	16.7	16.5	16.3	15.9	15.8	15.9

Rebound: Coming, but not huge

Not clear where the jobs will be, or how many new workers will be required

We do know that the vehicles themselves will be different





# Four Main Categories of Automotive Technology Change...

Powertrain



Energy and Fuels





Materials and Forming



 Electronics, Software and Controls



# What are the consequences of the retirement/SAP "brain drain"?



# Can You Teach Old Dogs New Tricks?

- Yes, you can...but...
  - It's not always cost effective from a personal or societal standpoint
  - Need extra work years or much higher income to reap positive ROI
  - Works best when its voluntary
  - Focused technical training yields more positive results for older trainees than academic degrees
  - Spending on improved job search and matching is more efficient for workers over 35
- Best option is to retain companies/workers
- Second best option is to attract other employers needing a similarly skilled workforce



### Where Will the "New Dogs" Come From?

- Industry upheaval has dampened labor market
- Despite the greening of the auto industry, careers are not seen as "sexy"
- As company market share shrinks, they will not need as many people, which leads to fewer openings
- We are studying labor demand and skill needs through the Program for Automotive Labor & Education

...Will there be enough "new dogs," will the skills shortage drive competition for positions, and will the talent pool be large enough to support continued R&D and mfg. concentration here?





## Industry Partners Tell Us...

- They're concerned about the "pipeline" of future engineers & skilled trades workers
- Co-op and other experiential learning opportunities are KEY to preparing the future workforce
- Beyond the basics, educators should emphasize
  - Emerging technologies
  - Teamwork and communication skills
  - Business skills (budgeting, project management, etc.)
  - Working in a multi-cultural/global environment





# Education and Workforce Development Partners Tell Us...

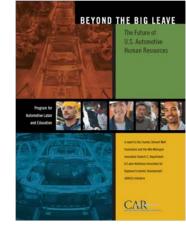
- They're concerned about the "pipeline" of future students; students and parents need to be sold
- They want to be responsive to the auto industry, but...
  - Industry doesn't speak with one voice
  - Local industry contacts may not be in tune with future trends
  - Difficult to get the attention of higher level industry executives
  - Education timeline is 2-4+ years ahead of hiring horizon
- Fewer and fewer co-op and other experiential learning opportunities are available
- Budget constraints make it tough to stay on top of latest technology—to succeed takes creativity, collaboration and industry partnerships





# The Program for Automotive Labor and Education

 A partnership of industry, labor, education, training, workforce development, and government dedicated to meeting the automotive workforce needs of tomorrow



#### Research

- Conduct regular updates of "Beyond the Big Leave"
- Brief members on public policies and programs
- Provide members with broad automotive industry intelligence and data

### Networking

- Hold quarterly meetings at company locations
- Connect existing collaborative programs/partnerships
- Share best practices
- Link members to automotive economic developers

#### Outreach

- Support student outreach
- Increase visibility for automotive workforce hiring and training issues in public discourse



http://pale.cargroup.org

## Comments/Questions

