Expanding Access to Career-Focused Learning



PARTNER

City of Detroit

PROGRAM

Saturdays in the D – Applied Skills Training for Workforce Development

LEARNERS

Adult residents of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park

THE CHALLENGE

As Detroit continues its economic revitalization, city leadership recognized that community growth must include investment in residents' career mobility and professional development.

The City sought to:

- Provide high-quality, university-level learning experiences to residents
- Offer a structured model that increases engagement and completion of online courses
- Support adult learners balancing work, family, and other responsibilities
- Deliver workforce-aligned skill development

> **"As the City has been revitalized, we must also invest in opportunities for its people. It's not enough to talk only about opportunity. It's about giving people access to opportunity."**
>
> *Melia Howard, co-organizer of Saturdays in the D (City of Detroit)*

THE SOLUTION

Michigan Online delivered online learning opportunities through the Saturdays in the D adult learning program developed by the City and the U-M Center for Innovation.

Participants selected courses that taught marketable skills, including **Python programming, AI, entrepreneurship, and leadership**.

213
course completions

97%
achieved their learning goals

100%
would recommend the program

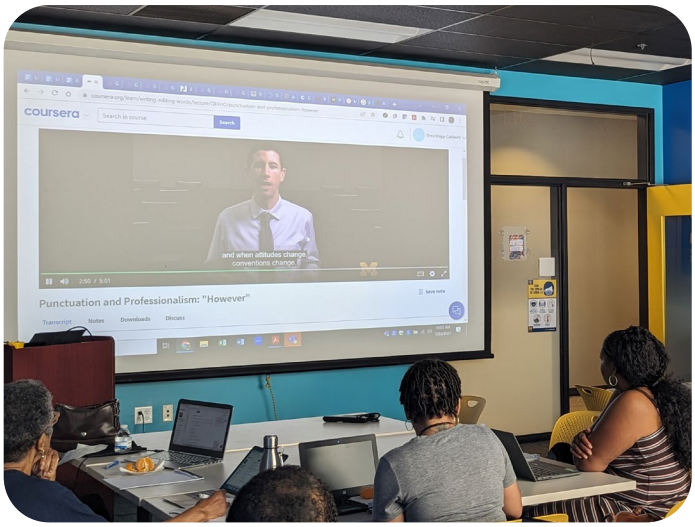
MICHIGAN ONLINE PROVIDED:	THE CITY AND UMCI MANAGED:
• Enrollment management and progress tracking • Facilitation support • Faculty engagement coordination • U-M digital certificate issuance	• Program support staff • Space and logistics • Community outreach and marketing

THE IMPACT

Half of all learners reported being unemployed or only working part-time at the time of enrollment. After the program, **participants reported increased confidence in navigating career transitions and credited the program with career advancement**.

> **"I learned so much more about the subject matter and myself."**
> *Tyra Wright, learner in "How to Network"*

> **"This course really encouraged me to pursue personal development at a higher level."**
> *Anonymous*



97%
achieved their learning goals

100%
would recommend the program

78%
agreed or strongly agreed they would use what they learned to perform better at work

93%
reporting increased confidence in learning new skills

WHY IT MATTERS

The Saturdays in the D program demonstrates how Michigan Online partnerships can:

- Deliver proven, real-world skills that employers want
- Provide scalable, tailored professional development
- Connect learners to University of Michigan faculty and credentials

PARTNER WITH MICHIGAN ONLINE

Michigan Online can work with your organization to design customized learning experiences aligned with your workforce development goals.

ONLINE.UMICH.EDU