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**SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON FOOD PROTECTION AND
BUILDING MICHIGAN'S FOOD & AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE**

Event set for November 21 in Lansing, Michigan

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., November 14, 2013 –The [Global Food Protection Institute](http://www.gfpi.org) (GFPI) and the [Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development](http://www.michigan.gov/MDARD) (MDARD) will host a symposium on November 21 in Lansing that will explore ways to foster job growth and build workforce capacity in Michigan's food and agriculture sector.

The program, titled **“Growing Michigan's Food & Ag Sector Economies through Food Protection and Workforce Capacity Building”** will feature keynote speakers Jamie Clover Adams, Director of MDARD and Michael Finney, President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

“In order to achieve the goal of growing Michigan's food and ag economy, many more highly-skilled workers are needed,” said Dr. Julia Bradsher, President and CEO of the Global Food Protection Institute. “This symposium brings together experts from government, industry, and academia to examine innovative solutions that address this need.”

“There is a tremendous amount of growth opportunity for Michigan's food and agriculture-based businesses which translates into new job possibilities within the state,” said Clover Adams. “Through collaboration between public and private groups, we will identify both the impediments as well as the solutions for ensuring Michigan has a skilled talent base to fulfill the business need.”

The symposium is open to the public. For more information and to register for the symposium, please visit <http://www.gfpi.org/symposia>.

Program speakers:

Jamie Clover Adams — Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Julia Bradsher — President and CEO, Global Food Protection Institute
George Chumakov — Senior VP, Morning Foods Supply Chain
Mike DiBernardo — Economic Development Specialist, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Michael Finney — President and CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Preston Hicks — VP of Resource Development and Evaluation, Global Food Protection Institute
Kris Jenkins — CTE Director, Calhoun Area Career Center
Scott Jenkins — VP of Student & Administrative Services, Mott Community College
Cordelia Squire — Food Science and Technology Instructor, Calhoun Area Career Center
Gerald Wojtala — Executive Director, International Food Protection Training Institute



About The Global Food Protection Institute

The Global Food Protection Institute (GFPI) is a leading food protection organization dedicated to protecting the world's food supply. Established in 2009, GFPI actively engages key public and private stakeholders across the food system. The GFPI mission is achieved through regulation- and standards-based training, advancing new food protection technologies, and convening forums for the transformative exchange of ideas about food protection. For more information, visit gfpi.org.

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