

## Reflections on the Global Trade and Transportation: Next Steps

June 19-21, 2011

Halifax, Nova Scotia

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### **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE EVENT:**

I attended this event both as an affiliate faculty member of the MSU Canadian Studies Center and in anticipation of a U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development grant we received on July 1, 2011 to support MSU's Center for Community and Economic Development and regional partners to work with small and medium-sized companies in the eastern Upper Peninsula and the Saginaw region in an effort to help them find new markets for their products and services.

This event provided a very good overview of Canada's trade interest with Michigan, the future development impact of the post panamax ships on trade, and the transportation infrastructure advantages/challenges we may face in responding to this opportunity.

### **SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES GAINED:**

- Increased knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of international global trade with Canada and beyond through the port of Halifax in security, transportation and market development opportunities
- KEY CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM CANADA INCLUDING; Ms. Kristine Burr, Federal Govt. of Canada
- KEY ACADEMIC CONTACTS: Dr. Mary Brooks, Dalhousie University (whose previous insights/research on exporting can be of particular value to our future work in expanding exporting in Michigan.
- KEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS: Scott Greenlee MEDC Export Director, The I-69 Corridor Initiative.