

GM and HP to Speed IT Transformation

by Jennifer Knightstep

GM and Hewlett-Packard have partnered on new multi-year project services and software contracts that GM says will accelerate its ongoing IT transformation efforts.

"These agreements with Hewlett-Packard will enable us to accelerate the progress of our IT transformation by delivering increased innovation and speed of delivery to our GM business partners and reduce the cost of ongoing IT operations," said GM Chief Information Officer Randy Mott. "Transforming our internal IT operations will give us the resources, tools and flexibility we need to provide better services and products to our global GM customers."

The agreements provide GM with a cost-neutral solution in which 3,000 HP employees already working on GM's business will transition to the company's employment rolls.

Juli Huston-Rough, director, News Relations and Operations, said this is part of long-term GM plans.

"A few weeks ago, we announced that the GM Information Innovation Center was going to open up in Warren at the Tech Center campus," Huston-Rough

said.

"We will begin hiring 1,500 high-tech folks to work there. They'll be doing software development as well as creating innovative solutions for GM."

Right now, Huston-Rough said, the GM Hewlett-Packard agreement is in its early stages, so there's not a lot to say about any detail regarding things like location of workers or the numbers involved.

"GM is an automotive icon and Hewlett-Packard values the strategic partnership we have had for more than two decades," said Mike Nefkens, HP acting

global enterprise services leader.

"We look forward to helping GM deliver even greater products and services to the market."

GM has also purchased HP's industry-leading IT Performance Suite, Enterprise Security Suite, Vertica and Autonomy Software, which will further accelerate the transformation of applications development, support and high-performance operations computing capabilities.

"GM needed a solution to provide confidence, insight and agility to perform better," said George Kadifa, executive vice president, HP Software.



Matthew Daviau works for GM IT in Warren.

Affinity Group to Celebrate Vets Day With World War II's Tuskegee Airmen

Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, falls on a Sunday this year, so the GM Veterans Affinity group will observe the holiday the preceding Friday, Nov. 9, with a ceremony to honor a group of World War II's most celebrated heroes, the Tuskegee Airmen.

The GM Veterans Affinity group, with chapters at GM facilities in Warren, Milford and Grand Blanc, now numbers more than 6,000 members. But the special Veteran's Day celebration isn't limited to just GM employees and retirees who are veterans – the group has issued an open invitation to any active duty or retired military veteran in the community.

GM employee and military veteran Mark Deppe has organized the event, partnering with Bob Brinker from UAW Local 160, and they expect more than 200 veterans to attend the tribute.

Aside from the rare treat of meeting and sharing stories with the Tuskegee Airmen, Deppe says the Veteran's Day celebration will include a display of equipment and memorabilia from the Vietnam war, a Striker armored vehicle, and a 12-foot-long USS Missouri (BB-63) replica model.

Deppe also wants attendees to know there's been a big change

over prior years' events: this year's event is not being held at GM Design Center Design Dome. Instead, it's going to be at the Advanced Energy Lab Auditorium (previously known as the GM Powertrain auditorium) on the GM Tech Center campus.

Deppe is asking that guests enter the Tech Center campus through gate #9, which is located across from the Campbell-Ewald building on Van Dyke Avenue. From there, guests can simply follow the signs to the parking lot next to the Alternative Energy Center.

Deppe stressed that while the focus of the event is on GM employees and retirees who are veterans, he welcomes those in the community who are veterans or those who support veterans to come and be honored guests for this event.

That invitation also includes anyone who is currently serving in any branch of the armed forces.

Gates open for the event at 10 a.m., though the celebration begins at 11 to allow guests time to park, gather, and chat. At noon, lunch will be served, and the event will end at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Mark Deppe by phone at 586-907-6085.

Warren Symphony Orchestra's History to be Concert's Tune

by Jim Stickford

The Warren Symphony Orchestra will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 11, by bringing back long-time music director and conductor emeritus David Daniels to conduct Brahms' Tragic Overture.

The anniversary concert will also feature the debut of Michigan composer Terry Herald's "On Greenstone Island," followed by a performance of 20th century German composer Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" that will feature three local choirs.

After the performances are complete, there will be a post-concert discussion sponsored by Charles Schwab. The concert will be held in the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Myrle Barrel, president of the board of directors of the Warren Symphony Orchestra (WSO), said, "We will have five public events. The first celebrates the orchestra's history.

"We are very excited about bringing back Dr. David Daniels. He retired three years ago after acting as musical director for 37 years. He was the heart and soul of the orchestra. He was the man who persuaded me to take the position of president of the board of directors."

Barrel said that even though the name of the group is the

"Warren Symphony Orchestra," they really believe that it represents a "much larger territory" across greater Macomb and Oakland Counties.

"We are working hard to spread our demographics beyond just Warren and the surrounding area," Barrel said. "We also want to bring classic music to the youth of Michigan.

"Schools these days don't have funding for music and the arts. Maybe they can take band, but that's it. Now, often the only way young people get exposed to classical music is through organizations like ours."

Barrel said he's an example of someone who learned to love classical music as a student. He's from St. Louis and in 1968 was a student at Lafayette High School.

"The assistant conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra came to the school to bring music to the students," Barrel said.

"I remember being blown away, after hearing the orchestra play, by the sound and the smoothness. I thought it was great. That assistant conductor's name was Leonard Slatkin, who is now conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra."

Barrel said his love of classical music continued and he had al-

ways hoped to learn to play an instrument. Barrel had earned a master's degree in international relations at age 39 by attending school at night.

Later, a friend was moving to Germany for a couple of years and he had a great piano, Barrel said. Instead of putting the piano in storage, Barrel told the friend to let him keep it at his house.

So at age 41, Barrel started taking piano lessons using his friend's instrument. He said that's old to start learning an instrument, but after 21 years, he's gotten fairly decent at playing.

A couple of years ago, Barrel saw an article that stated that Slatkin was still bringing music to youths, but here in metro Detroit. Barrel wrote the conductor a letter telling him how his love of classical music began with Slatkin's efforts decades earlier in St. Louis.

"I believe the youth orchestra is an important component of what we do," Barrel said. "At the end of April of next year, we will have a concert for more than 2,000 middle schoolers."

Barrel is a senior account manager for the auto supplier Pierburg Inc. He has an office in Auburn Hills and works with Chrysler and General Motors.



Myrle Barrel

ances are meant to be family affairs and ticket pricing is set accordingly.

To learn more about the orchestra's upcoming season, visit www.warrensymphony.org.

Local Craft Show Slated for Nov. 10

The City of Warren Parks and Recreation Department is holding its 14th annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Show on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will be held in the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, south of 14 Mile Road, west of Mound Road.

The exhibitor's fee is \$25 for those interested in showing and selling their wares. Tables must be reserved by Oct. 26.

A variety of different crafts will be sold. For more information, call 586-757-7480.

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