

## NEWS RELEASE

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### DCM ASSOCIATES RECEIVES BEST SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

DCM Associates, LLC of Mt. Pleasant has received the 2004 Best Small Business Award from the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC). The companies honored for the 2004 Best Small Business Awards were selected from among 10,000 companies the MI-SBTDC provided with confidential counseling and training last year.

The best small business was chosen based on its success in terms of sales, employment and business strategy, in addition to the company's economic impact and the involvement of the MI-SBTDC in providing assistance to reach their goals.

DCM Associates is housed within The Center for Applied Research and Technology at Central Michigan University where they design, develop and distribute highly interactive workforce skills for regulatory areas like Hazardous Materials and OSHA through online training courses. Owner, Debby Marmarelli, first sought assistance from the MI-SBTDC at Mid Michigan Community College for help with writing her business plan.

"Debby and I worked together on several occasions making modifications and improvements to her business plan," said Marie Elliott, MI-SBTDC Regional Director. Mary Sue Cary-Hoffman, Technology Business Consultant also met with Marmarelli to discuss intellectual property issues, such as a non-compete agreement imposed by her former employer.

Since counseling began, DCMA has grown from one to seven part-time employees and is projected to grow to 21 full-time employees by 2007. The company has also won two Federal grants, bringing \$200,000 in development funds into the area.

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center provides counseling, training and advocacy for Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, expanding new businesses, new technology companies, and innovators. The MI-SBTDC for Region 4 is housed at Mid Michigan Community College in Harrison.