

MIRS Capitol Capsule
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Talent Caucus Formed

Over the years, various caucuses have formed in the Legislature from the so-called Kiddie Caucus years ago to the Black Caucus today.

Now comes the newly instituted Talent Caucus with the objective of training and retaining talented college graduates in Michigan.

The moving force behind the five-member group is Sen. Gilda **JACOBS** (D-Huntington Woods), who is getting moral and research support from the author of a report on the issue, Lou **GLAZER**. Glazer met with Jacobs, Sen. Jason **ALLEN** (R-Traverse City) and Reps. Bill **HUIZENGA** (R-Zeeland), Ed **CLEMENTE** (D-Lincoln Park), and Steve **TOBOCMAN** (D-Detroit) two weeks ago and told the group there is a direct and unmistakable correlation between per capita income in the state and the number of college graduates.

Minnesota is the poster child for that concept, with the highest income rate per person and the largest number of college grads. Glazer said it is rare to find such a strong correlation, but in the top ten states in the nation with the highest personal income, nine also have the highest number of college grads.

"Michigan looks like Wisconsin and Ohio," reported Glazer, who did economic development work during the Blanchard administration in the 1980s. Indiana he said is the "worst of the bunch." Illinois is right behind Minnesota.

Glazer is hoping this new Talent Caucus will produce some new policies for the state that will help retain college grads. Glazer had one idea to link college scholarship money to residency. For example, if a student agreed to stay in Michigan, he or she would get direct aid or get their student loans reduced or eliminated. He reported only one legislative nibble from Sen. Wayne **KUIPERS** (R-Holland).