



34th Annual Michigan Public Service Institute

April 11-16, 2027 • September 12-17, 2027 • September 19-24, 2027

Comfort Inn & Suites Conference Center • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Focus on Leadership

SUNDAY

April 11
September 12
September 19

Check In

- ☑ 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- 📍 Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel
- 📌 Note, it is unlikely that your room will be available before 4:00 PM.

Registration

- ☑ 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
- 📍 Conference Center

Orientation – Opening Session

- ☑ 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 📌 Challenges facing Public Works Supervisors

Includes working dinner.
(1 hour of instruction)



Facilitated by Lewis Bender

Education is at the heart of the mission for MPSI. Lew is great at encouraging the participants to think, share and learn from each other throughout the week. He is also the instructor for several sessions.

MONDAY

April 12
September 13
September 20

Breakfast

- ☑ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Challenges Facing Public Works Supervisors

- ☑ 8:00 AM – Noon
- 📌 Hiring and retaining employees
- 📌 Lewis Bender, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, SIU Edwardsville and the MPSI Committee
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Lunch

- ☑ Noon – 1:00 PM

Leadership Traits of American Presidents

- ☑ 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM
- 📌 Lessons that apply to your organization.
- 📌 Gleaves Whitney, Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
(3 1/4 hours of instruction)

It's A Matter of Your Style

- ☑ 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- 📌 Learn how distinct personalities and different thinking styles bring value and strength to any organization.
- 📌 Lewis Bender, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, SIU Edwardsville
(3 1/4 hours of instruction)

Includes a hearty snack.
Dinner on your own.

TUESDAY

April 13
September 14
September 21

Breakfast

- ☑ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

How to Motivate Your Employees

- ☑ 8:00 AM – Noon
- 📌 Ways employees can motivate each other. Create a motivated work culture and learn how every leader can be a great motivator.
- 📌 Doug Cartland, DCI
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Lunch

- ☑ Noon – 1:00 PM

Becoming a Superior Communicator

- ☑ 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- 📌 Focus on making communication work and improving listening skills, effectively conveying and receiving directions.
- 📌 Doug Cartland, DCI
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Picnic

- ☑ 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- 📌 Corn Hole Tournament and Picnic

WEDNESDAY

April 14
September 15
September 22

Breakfast

- ☑ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Effective Team Membership

- ☑ 8:00 AM – Noon
- 📌 This course will cover what it takes to overcome obstacles, become a successful team member and contribute to the overall success of a team.
- 📌 Lewis Bender, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, SIU Edwardsville
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Free Afternoon and evening

- 📌 This session is set aside for networking. It makes up for the evening session on Monday, and participants are strongly encouraged not to return to work on Wednesday afternoon.

THURSDAY

April 15
September 16
September 23

Breakfast

- ☑ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Real Leadership in Public Service

- ☑ 8:00 AM – Noon
- 📌 Identify and develop your role as a "real" public service leader.
- 📌 Steve Ludwig, Ludwig Speaks
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Lunch

- ☑ Noon – 1:00 PM

Legal Update

- ☑ 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM
- 📌 Legal Updates on:
 - Grievances
 - Arbitration
- 📌 Helen (Lizzie) Mills, and Chad Karsten, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PLC
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Social - Cash Bar

- ☑ 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Dinner and Awards Banquet

- ☑ 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 📌 Celebrating the MPSI Class of 2026

FRIDAY

April 16
September 17
September 24

Breakfast

- ☑ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Creative Problem Solving and Strategic Planning

- ☑ 8:00 AM – Noon
- 📌 Focus on processes and tools for problem solving.
- 📌 Lewis Bender, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, SIU Edwardsville

Eureka to Action

- 📌 Creation of an action plan for addressing issues and accomplishing goals.
- 📌 Lewis Bender, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, SIU Edwardsville
(3 3/4 hours of instruction)

Certificates

- 📌 Certificates are given to those who have completed all sessions.
- Attendance will be monitored at each session, and CECs will be awarded based on their hours of instruction.