

DTE Energy and NMC team up

DTE Energy has announced that it will team up with Northwestern Michigan College to create its entry for this year's DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade. The float will highlight the company's collaboration with the college in creating the DTE Energy Freshwater Institute for Teachers. The program brings K-12 teachers together with experts in natural resources for workshops on the Great Lakes and environment.

"The DTE Energy Freshwater Institute will help teachers learn new ways to teach science by focusing on local issues involving the Great Lakes and its watersheds. We will host Institutes for Teachers in Traverse City and Petoskey this year, and then begin to extend the program throughout Michigan," said Becky Cooper, project director of the college's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute.

The DTE Energy parade float will depict the workshops in classroom and outdoor settings, and will feature local teachers enrolled in this year's Institute as well as some of their students.

"The float will celebrate teachers, science,

freshwater and students — a winning combination," Cooper said.

Using the theme "Rooted in Your Community," DTE Energy partners each year with a local non-profit organization to build a float with reusable materials that are later donated to the community. Last year, the company worked with the Watershed Center, a group dedicated to preserving the Grand Traverse Bay. Immediately following the parade, the rain garden featured on the float was replanted in the water retention basin in Hull Park for the public to enjoy. The company's gift to the community this year will be the Institute itself.

"These partnerships have been a wonderful opportunity for us to bring attention to some very worthy organizations and to give something of lasting value to the community," said Fred Shell, DTE Energy vice president of corporate and government affairs.

With more than 130 entries, the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade is one of the Midwest's largest. It is the fourth consecutive year DTE Energy has sponsored the parade.

"Share" funding and scholarships benefit from National Cherry Festival

Each year, the National Cherry Festival provides resources to the community, including educational scholarships and funding to other non-profit and service groups.

Various scholarship programs support education enrichment. The National Cherry Queen and her runner-up are each awarded college scholarships, made possible in part by Huntington Bank. This year's National Cherry Queen will receive scholarships totaling \$8,000. Over \$15,000 will be awarded in scholarship monies this year to the National Cherry Queen and her court.

Each year, a scholarship contribution is also made to the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, a division of Northwestern Michigan College. Scholarship dollars are made possible through a culinary presentation event, Taste of Cherries, produced in cooperation with Sunny 101.9 WLDR.

A cooperative program, Taste of Cherries

makes it possible for students to learn with hands-on experience in creating recipes and presenting cuisine — all of which feature cherries.

In addition, over 40 community groups and service clubs will partner with the National Cherry Festival's Community Share Program to provide manpower, in addition to the Art Van Furniture Festival Ambassadors, to help run Festival events. In return, the Festival will contribute more than \$35,000 to these civic organizations following the eight-day event.





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