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Kiplinger tags Lansing as a great city for young adults

Technology jobs, low cost of living cited in report

MELISSA DOMSIC • MDOMSIC@LSJ.COM • JULY 30, 2010

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The "Love Lansing" contingent is growing, with a well-known [financial group](#) touting the Michigan city as one of the best places for young people.



Inspired by excellence



The top 6% of hospitals nationally for nursing excellence.

Lansing was named one of "10 Great Cities for Young Adults" by [financial](#) news organization Kiplinger Washington Editors Inc.

Though it named Lansing in particular, Kiplinger noted the surrounding area in its article.

"Michigan's [capital](#) is a little-known hotbed for young professionals," Kiplinger said on its website. "Granted, this Great Lakes community can't quite compare to the larger cities on our list in terms of job prospects or things to do. But it has a relatively low cost of living. And its youthful population, downtown renewal projects, and emerging technology sector make Lansing a stand-out in mid-sized cities."

A group of passionate, community-minded young adults has been pushing that notion for the past few years.

They promote their town on Twitter with the keyword "#LoveLansing," talk about it during networking events and defend their decision to live here to their peers in other cities.

And now, they believe have something to back it up.

"I think there's kind of a spirit about this place ... sort of this underdog, phoenix rising out of the ashes," said Lansing resident Kate Tykocki, who said she likes "being able to be in a place where I really can make changes and I really can have an impact."

Tykocki, 29, ended up in Lansing the same way

many of her peers did.

She attended Michigan State University and stayed after graduation. She's now the chief communications officer at Capital Area Michigan Works.

lansingstatejournal.com/apps/.../article...



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Making the grade: Cheap rent well below the national average, a respectable bar and club scene and high-paying job opportunities in bio and Internet technologies were among reasons Lansing was chosen by Kiplinger as a great city for young adults. (GREG DeRUITER/Lansing State Journal)



City dwellers: Lansing residents Kelli Fenstermaker (left) and Kristen Warner, both 24, enjoy lunch Thursday at Brannigan Brothers in downtown Lansing. Lansing was cited as a great city for young adults in a Kiplinger Washington Editors Inc. report.

AT A GLANCE

Financial news organization Kiplinger named Lansing among 10 great cities for young adults. Here are the other cities:

- Austin, Texas
- Charlotte, N.C.
- Chicago
- Houston
- Kansas City, Mo.

Some Challenges

Not everyone is as enthusiastic about the state capital.

East Lansing resident Chris Iannuzzi, 24, works in Lansing but doesn't spend much time there otherwise.

"There are not that many opportunities to do stuff or expand or grow," he said. "The area is kind of decimated a little bit. It's depressed."

Lansing isn't without challenges: the Lansing School District cut \$16 million from this year's budget, the city has put hundreds of employees on unpaid furloughs to help address its \$12 million shortfall, and the state is grappling with a \$340 million deficit this fiscal year.

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Newest first



dj1997 wrote:

Replying to tsears:

Lansing does not have 5 Medical schools. In fact one of the 2 has moved to Grand Rapids. Its next issue is the major employer is the State of Michigan. The state is facing a nearly 2 billion dollar shortfall with the decrease in Federal Medicaid funds. This will force the state into more layoffs. So Lansing can have a low cost of living, but this is due to falling wages, higher unemployment, and greater foreclosures. So if you want to stay on the list, the negatives must be address. We cannot continue to finance a second rate service such as CATA.

Actually MSU alone has 3 medical schools (one of which expanded into Gd Rapids-financial incentives), but some students from that program remain in Lansing. Regarding CATA, many feel it is a good service. Public transportation includes more than just bus service (air, taxi, rail services, etc). As for state jobs, unemployment extensions have created more State jobs, as more workers are necessary to process unemployment claims.

8/2/2010 9:38:49 AM

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PhDdoctor wrote:

This is really great news for Lansing. It has been a long time coming that we got some positive, national press. I would only disagree with Ms. Tycocki that there are not "lots of opportunities for high tech jobs, highly skilled jobs" available. I would suggest that there are "some" of those jobs available as is noted by our high unemployment in Lansing. When you make the statement that she did, you should have evidence to legitimize it as she should have access to that information at Michigan Works. Finally, I hope that Virg won't try to take credit for this because he has done little to help this city in the past 7 months.

7/31/2010 12:35:03 AM

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OhHimAgain wrote:

Regarding public transportation.... Most of us would admit that the capital region has an awesome, award-winning bus system - timely, clean, safe, green. I've travelled quite a bit in my days and can assure you that Lansing has a superb bus system for a city of our size. The taxi system is getting way better as well. Even the airport is

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On the Web

• For the full article, visit <http://ow.ly/2ihXF>



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decent.

Even our highway and road systems are top notch....which is probably what leads to the "unimpressive" part.

It is "unimpressive" that we don't have a rail system connecting the major population areas in Michigan, which then could be expanded by creating local, light rail systems. The condition and location of the Amtrack "shack" are "unimpressive". Public transportation between cities in Michigan is "unimpressive".

The CATA bus system is one of the shining stars in our local economy. Thousands of riders each day going to school, work, shopping, medical visits, etc.

I, for one, am proud of the CATA bus system.

7/30/2010 5:14:24 PM

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OhHimAgain wrote:

Congratulations to the young professionals in Lansing!!! You guys made this happen. I am looking forward to witnessing and participating as this new generation replaces the old guard in our town that only looks after themselves and hardly gives anything back. Hopefully the people with power and money in this town will learn from these energetic and caring young professionals how to work together to make things happen.

Clearly having a Michigan city being listed in this Kiplinger report is a big big deal. Awesome.

7/30/2010 4:53:34 PM

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JosephManzella wrote:

Hit send a bit too early... proofreading helps sometimes.

What i was getting at: We've managed to cram a state capital, a big ten university, several distinct towns/cities into an area the size of 2 survey townships - we're much smaller than all of the other places mentioned, but we still rock.

7/30/2010 4:40:53 PM

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8/23/2010

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