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## **GOVERNOR JENNIFER GRANHOLM TO LEAD MICHIGAN DELEGATION TO AICHI WORLD EXPO 2005**

**Nagakute – July 22, 2005.** Governor Jennifer Granholm will be leading a large delegation of Michigan business, government and academic representatives on a visit to the Aichi World Expo 2005 and to the U.S. Pavilion on July 25, 2005.

“We are delighted to welcome Governor Jennifer Granholm and this impressive delegation from Michigan to the Expo and the U.S. Pavilion,” said Ambassador Lisa Gable, U.S. Commissioner-General. “I know that they have many old friends in the Chubu business community, and I am sure that their talks here will be useful and productive.”

“The business relationships between Chubu and Michigan are increasingly valuable for both sides,” said Governor Granholm. “The Big Three auto manufacturers are buying parts and assemblies from Japan-invested companies that embody the latest technology---some of which is produced in Michigan at the newly expanded Toyota Technical Center in Ann Arbor. We want to keep the momentum of this fruitful cooperation going, and that is the purpose of our visit.”

Michigan has perhaps the most solid educational infrastructure for productive relations with Japan of any American state. Beginning in the 1950s, the state government was a leader in establishing centers for the academic study of Japan. Today, the majority of the young Japanese-speaking Americans who guide visitors through the U.S. Pavilion have gained their knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language in the state-supported educational institutions of the state of Michigan.