

Detroit's Med Grow Cannabis College offers course in growing marijuana

A school in Detroit, Med Grow Cannabis College, offers courses in how to grow, use and profit from medicinal marijuana.

By Tom Chivers

Published: 12:40PM GMT 30 Nov 2009

Founded by a 24-year-old called Nick Tennant, the [small, suburban college](http://www.medgrowmi.com/) (<http://www.medgrowmi.com/>) runs six-week courses for \$485 (£295), which will cover the horticultural skills required to grow the plants, as well as recipes for cooking and the legal pitfalls and loopholes.

Mr Tennant says: "This state needs jobs, and we think medical marijuana can stimulate the state economy with hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars."



'Weak, disappointing. Three out of 10. See me after class.' Photo: Getty

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Attendees will be taught recipes for cannabis butter, cannabis chocolate icing, and "greenies" (like brownies, only more so).

A new law in Michigan, the 2008 Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, has made growing marijuana for medicinal purposes legal. Patients can buy the drug if doctors certify that they need it for a health problem.

Further, patients can grow up to 12 plants for themselves, or can buy it from a licensed "caregiver" who can grow for up to five named patients: i.e. a total of 60 plants. Anyone aged 21 or over with no criminal record can be licensed as a caregiver.

So far 5,800 people have registered as patients in the state, while 2,400 have registered as caregivers.

However, despite the new legal status of cannabis, the attendees of the Med Grow Cannabis College were not generally advertising their new student status to their friends and families.

One, who wished to remain anonymous, **told NewsObserver.com** (http://www.newsobserver.com/news/health_science/story/216442.html) : "I told my mother-in-law I was going to a small-business class."

Another, 27-year-old Jeffery Butler, said: "I've just told a couple of people I can trust.

"It's a business opportunity, but some people are still going to look at you funny. But I'm going to do it anyway."

Mr Tennant is registered both as a caregiver and as a patient, having suffered from stomach problems and anxiety. He started an car valet company after he finished university himself, but it went under as the economy worsened.

Although marijuana use remains illegal under federal law, it is becoming increasingly accepted by several states. Unsurprisingly, California was the first state to legalise it for medical use. But **the country's first cannabis cafe opened this month in Portland, Oregon** (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/6610832/First-marijuana-coffee-shop-opens-in-America.html>), while a newspaper in Colorado **recently advertised for a marijuana reviewer** (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/6397715/Colorado-newspaper-Westword-advertises-for-marijuana-reviewer.html>).

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