



Mason County, Michigan

Monthly Update: December 2016



LEAD Strategy Set and Ready for 2017

On November 30th, stakeholders from Mason, Lake, Oceana, and Newaygo counties gathered at West Shore Community College to complete a plan geared towards fostering regional collaboration in economic development. This initiative was part of the Leaders in Economic Alliance Development (aka LEAD), which assists regional partners identify common goals and establish a plan to collectively work towards accomplishing those goals over the course of the next 12-18 months.

The planning process benefited from enthusiastic participation from more than 70 participants across the four county region, and representation from a diverse group of stakeholders. As a result of this process, the four county collaborative identified the following three areas for cooperation: 1) Broadband Access, 2) Workforce Development, and 3) Regional Recreation Development Strategy. Subcommittees were formed around these three areas, and will start meeting in 2017 to continue to develop and implement their strategies over the course of the next year.

For more information on the LEAD process and to learn how you can be involved going forward, contact Spence Riggs at spencer@ludington.org or call 231-845-6646.

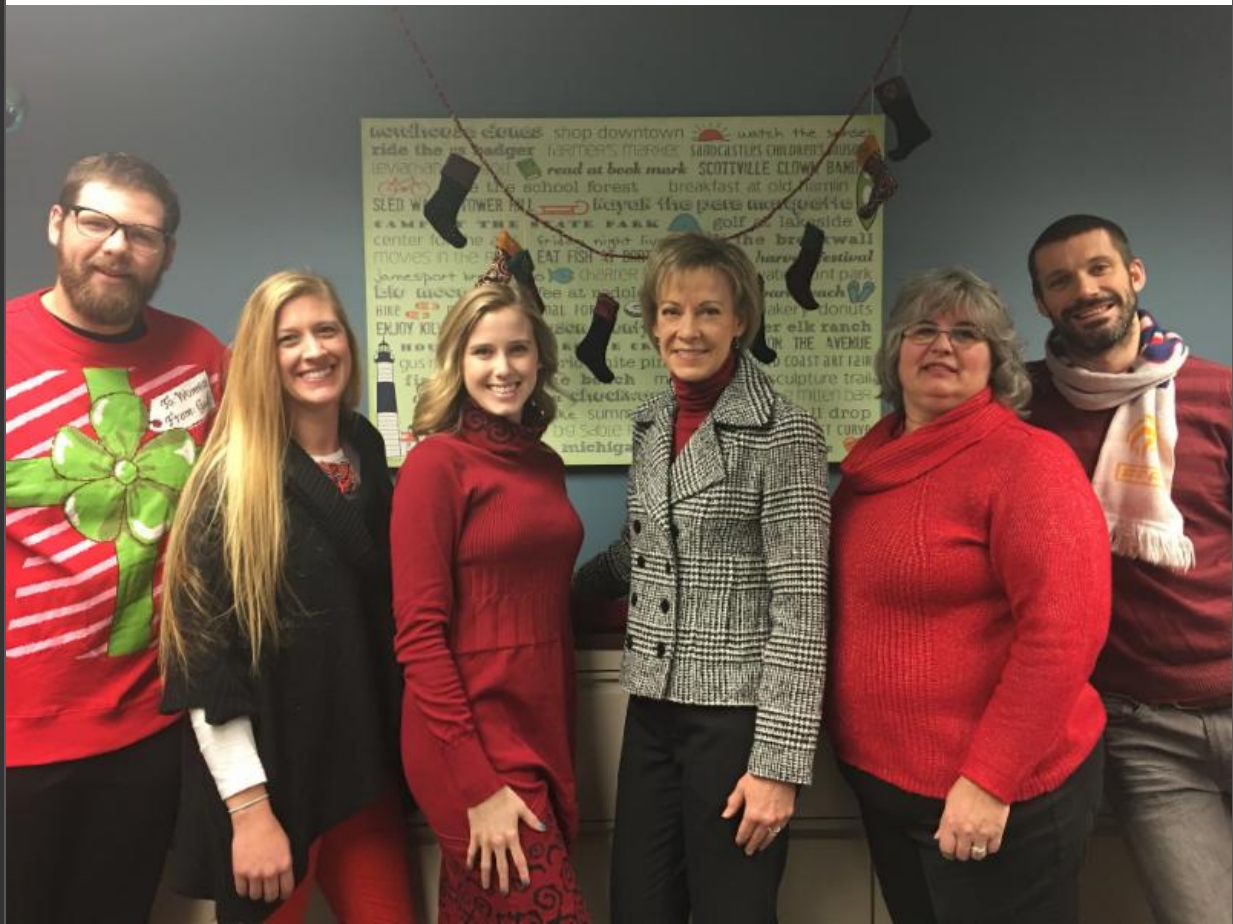


Skills4Success

Business & Education Summit: FuturePREP'd

On Friday January 13th the Mason County Growth Alliance will be partnering with the local Talent 2025 Steering Committee to host a Business & Education Summit. The event will feature Jason Pasatta of Ottawa Area Intermediate School District's Future PREP'd program and Alison Freas of Herman Miller to share their experiences with the Future PREP'd program with a contingent of local leaders in business and education. The duo will present on the totality of the Future PREP'd program, focusing particular attention on the Skills 4 Success framework. This framework is a set of 7 interrelated skills that were developed to help employers and educators communicate the "soft" or "employability" skills that students need and employers want. The intent of the summit is to learn from this nationally-recognized best practice being developed in West Michigan, and explore opportunities for bringing these ideas to Mason County.

For more information on the Business & Education Summit, contact Spence Riggs at spencer@ludington.org, or call 231-845-6646. For more information on the Future PREP'd and the Skills 4 Success framework, [click here](#).

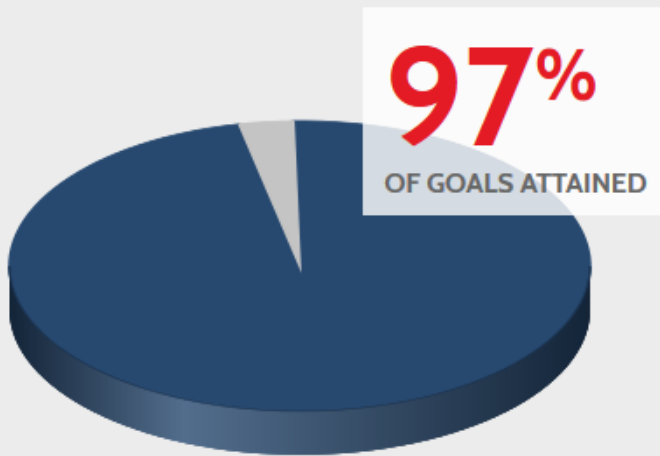


Happy Holidays from the MCGA and Chamber

As you are gearing up for your holiday celebrations and making your New Year's resolutions, the staff of the Mason County Growth Alliance and the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce wants to take the time to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. It has been our distinct pleasure to work and serve in such a special community, and we look forward to continuing this work alongside our partners in 2017.

Work Ready Community Progress Tracker

MASON COUNTY



Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	128	209
Current	45	89
Transitioning	282	272
Totals	455	570
Workforce category not identified		0
Total NCRC		570

	Goals	Actual
Employers Supporting <small>ⓘ</small>	38	39 <small>ⓘ</small>

Timeline for completing goals is September 22, 2014 to on or before September 21, 2016

About the Mason County Growth Alliance:

The Mason County Growth Alliance was created in 2006 to support economic growth and community development in Mason County. Its mission is to nurture a more dynamic economy to support a vibrant quality of life in the community. The Growth Alliance believes its efforts must be devoted to building on its business base, encouraging entrepreneurship, and capitalizing on the local community assets.



Mason County Growth Alliance

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