



Mason County, Michigan

## Monthly Update: January 2017



### Regional Economic Development Reflects Emerging Trends

The Right Place recently unveiled their three-year economic development strategic plan for the greater Grand Rapids area and West Michigan, and the strategy reflects certain emerging trends that are changing the landscape of economic development. After reviewing patterns at the regional and national levels, the Right Place, a Grand Rapids-based regional economic development organization, forecasts that the coming years are likely to be characterized by an increase in private investment as it pertains to equipment and facilities, with less of an emphasis on job creation. Consequently, the Right Place and other economic development organizations will have to change the way they think about economic development. [Click here](#) to read the full MiBiz article.

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## Supervisor Leader User Group to Kickoff in March

The Mason County Growth Alliance, in partnership with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), is coordinating with manufacturers in Mason and Oceana counties to participate in a Supervisor-Leader User Group. This user group is a 10-month long training program designed to equip supervisors and managers with the skills they need to be successful in managing their staff while reinforcing a positive and productive company culture. This program has enjoyed a great deal of success in the greater Grand Rapids area for a number of years, and this will be the first time that such a training program will take place in Mason or Oceana counties.

For more information on the Supervisor-Leader User Group, [click here](#) or email Spence Riggs at [spencer@ludington.org](mailto:spencer@ludington.org).



## Skills4Success

Skills 4 Success: Reinforcing Soft Skills in Students

More and more, employers are emphasizing the importance of soft "employability" skills such as personal accountability and communication, and the Mason County Growth Alliance is working with a group of leaders in industry and education to ensure that local students graduate with an understanding of these desirable skills. At last month's Business & Education Summit, a diverse group of community leaders gathered to learn about the Skills 4 Success framework and Future PREP'd program that Ottawa Area Intermediate School District has developed to reinforce these desired soft skills, which include: Technological Literacy, Collaboration & Global Thinking, Communication, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Flexibility & Adaptability, Ethical Citizenship, and Personal Accountability. Now the Growth Alliance is taking the lead to coordinate a follow up training of trainers workshop that will allow educators and representatives from local industry to take a deeper dive into these programs, and gain a deeper understanding of Ottawa's approach to equipping students with these skills. The goal is that stakeholders in Mason County will be able to replicate this program locally, aligning efforts across the county and throughout the region.

This effort is a part of the Mason County's participation with Talent 2025, a workforce and talent development think tank out of Grand Rapids. Click the links to learn more about the [Skills 4 Success](#), [Future PREP'd](#), and [Talent 2025](#).

## Work Ready Community Progress Tracker



### 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.



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**Mason County Growth Alliance**

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