



Mason County, Michigan

Monthly Update: March 2017



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER JOB FAIRS

MCGA to Host Summer Job Fairs Among Other Strategies to Meet Summer Employment Demands

In the month of April, the Growth Alliance is partnering with local school districts to organize two summer job fairs for high school students. This is an opportunity for students to learn about a variety of summer employment opportunities in Mason County, while also providing employers the chance to network with high school students, talk about employment opportunities, and help meet their summertime staffing needs. Moreover, this provides employers the chance to talk with graduating seniors about potential career opportunities available in Mason County.

Job fairs will take place at Ludington High School on Friday, April 21st from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM, and at Mason County Central High School on Friday, April 28th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. [Click here](#) to download a participation form to reserve your spot in the summer job fairs.

The summer job fairs are a part of a larger Growth Alliance initiative to connect Mason County employers with area students to help retain local talent. In addition, the Growth Alliance is working to establish a graduate contact database to keep recent high school graduates informed of internships, summer jobs, and other employment opportunities in the area, working to retain and attract local talent back to Mason County and West Michigan. Contact Spence Riggs for more information on the summer job fairs, or to learn about the various ways MCGA can help fill vacancies and connect your company

MiFOOD2017

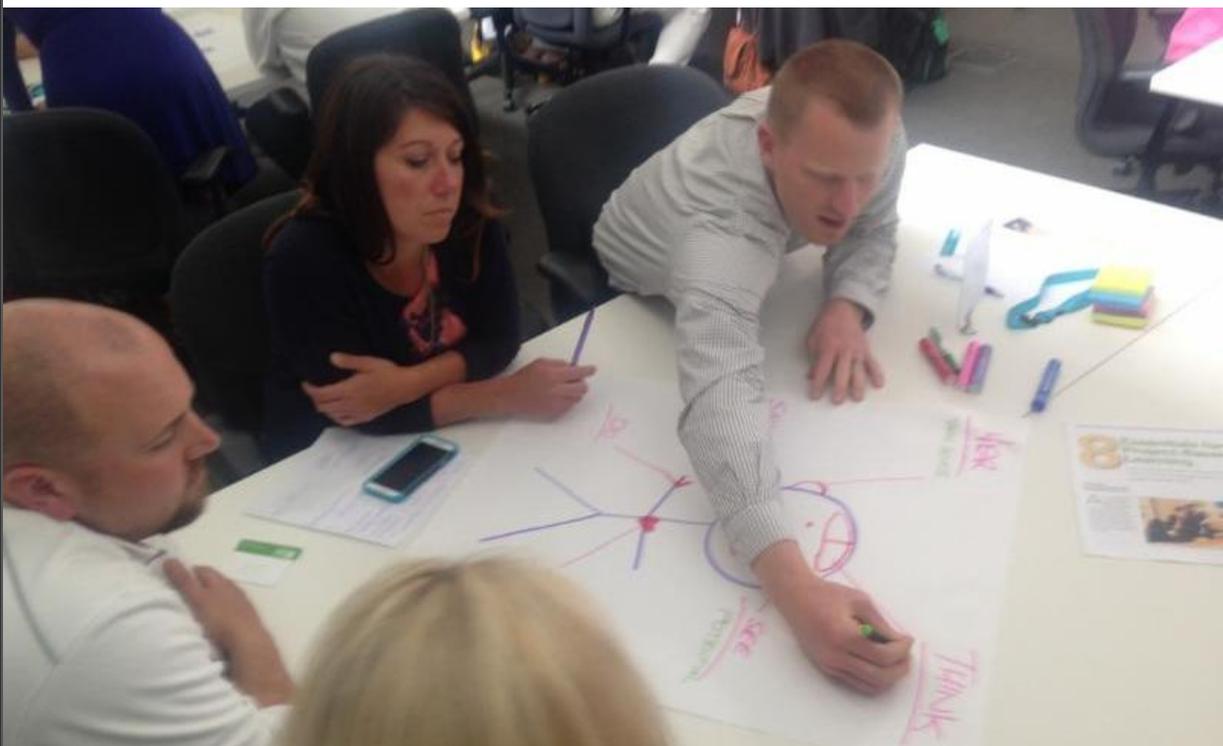
Food Processing & Agribusiness Summit



MiFOOD 2017 Food Processing & Agribusiness Summit

The MiFOOD 2017 summit tackles some of today's most challenging issues in the agriculture and food processing industries. Learn from business leaders and industry experts on how you can drive new, innovative strategies for growth, safety, sustainability, and increased efficiency in your own company.

Michigan's food processing and ag industries are two of the fastest growing sectors of Michigan's economy. The goal of the 2017 summit is to ensure that trend continues and that Michigan's growers and processors have access to the resources, education, and support they need to succeed. [Click here](#) for registration information.

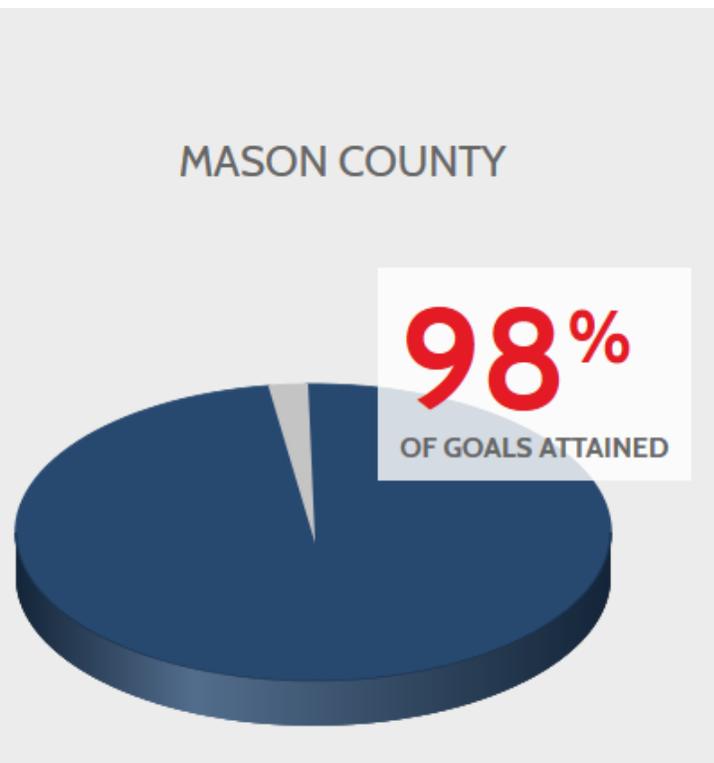


Skills 4 Success: Reinforcing Soft Skills in Students

Last week, the Growth Alliance in coordination with Mason County's Talent 2025 working group put on a workshop for educators to take a deeper look into the Skills 4 Success program developed by Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) in order to explore how a similar concept might be applied in Mason County. Skills 4 Success is a program geared toward helping students to develop "soft skills" such as personal accountability, critical thinking, problem solving, and more. During the workshop, OAISD's Jason Pasatta discussed the importance of soft skill development as a means of ensuring that students are college and career ready, particularly in a world that is rapidly changing due to technology and globalization. Workshop participants went on to explore a variety of strategies that might be employed to help students recognize and develop these skills.

This workshop was a follow-up to the Business & Education Summit that took place in January, where a group of business, education, and community leaders gathered to discuss the importance of soft skill development and began to explore the Skills 4 Success. Mason County's Talent 2025 working group will continue to facilitate the collaborative investigation of the Skills 4 Success and other means of soft skill development to ensure students are graduating college and career ready.

Work Ready Community Progress Tracker



Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	128	210
Current	45	89
Transitioning	282	273
Totals	455	572
Workforce category not identified		0
Total NCRC		572

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

spencer@ludington.org | 231-845-6646 | masoncountygrowth.com

See what's happening on our social sites:

